



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

Dear Church,

Of course March arrived in a gale with floods and ice and snow! Not only is the month supposed to roar in like a lion, but we are walking through the most challenging season of the church year, Lent.

And listening to the winds that buffeted my office I remembered that we often speak of how the wind of the Holy Spirit often blows us through our faith journeys in ways we do not anticipate.

This all reminded me of ideas offered in past PC(USA) General Assembly Moderator, Joan Gray's book, *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*. She believes that given the deep losses most congregations have experienced over the last forty or so years – loss of members, especially children, a society that no longer seems to value church membership and such – churches need to be asking a very important question:

Since it seems we are no longer church the way we've always been church...
then what does God want us to be and do now?

There are at least two ways to approach that question. Most people think that church depends mostly on human effort. You know, God has given us a basic agenda and then it's up to us to make it happen. We are in charge of getting the job loving God and loving one another done. "Just do it" so to speak.

So they act as if everything depends on their own strength, wisdom and resources. Being a successful, comfortable church depends on our good works and good decisions about programs and the like. In this way, church life is like life in a rowboat. As you row, you're always looking backwards to make sure you have stayed true to the idea of church. And you notice that don't make progress unless you're willing to row long and hard... and fast.

But there's another option to consider. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote, "God can do more than we can ask or imagine." For those who keep this in mind church becomes a continuing adventure of looking ahead in partnership with a God who guides and empowers them to do more than they could ever have dreamed. They realize that the Holy Spirit is blowing them to a new place where they may need to live as church a bit differently than they always had.

These people live life as if on a sailboat. And if you've ever sailed or talked with a sailor you know that navigating the boat is an ongoing process of discernment that takes time and energy. The winds may change. A storm may come up.

Sailors know that the progress of their journey isn't solely in their hands. Yes, sailing is still hard work. Sailors must always look ahead and use their skills and abilities to hoist the sails and "come to." But they also understand that progress really depends on the breeze.

A church that lives on a sailboat knows the journey doesn't depend on just their skills. It depends on the wind of the Holy Spirit. After all, without God they can do nothing (John 15:5) and with God all things are possible (Luke 1:37).

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS CONTINUED...

So where does this leave us, the First Presbyterian Church of Huron?

Well, it seems as though we are becoming a sailboat church. You see, at their last meeting the Session began considering how the congregation can be as faithful as possible to God's desire for us as church in *this time and place*.

down what would be missed if one task or another didn't get done and consider what they love about the committee's work. Most excitingly they'll do some dreaming about what they most hope will come about from their work.

As a part of the process of discerning what that looks like – plotting a course for the future - the Session will work with the committees to develop task lists of what they believe their duties are just now. The committees will also write down what would be missed if one task or another didn't get done and consider what they love about the committee's work. Most excitingly they'll do some dreaming about what they most hope will come about from their work.

This information will help create a current and more complete picture of where we are so we can better navigate to the place God's Spirit is leading us. That picture will begin to take shape when the Session reviews the lists and starts considering in what ways the church is strongest now and where there are opportunities for realistic growth, etc.

Friends, we are hoisting the sails and untying our sailboat from the dock. In the coming months (perhaps even years) we will discern where the Spirit is moving and inviting us to invest ourselves in God's work. Sometimes this journey will be as challenging as the season of Lent. Yet as we sail ahead, our understanding of God's hopes and dreams for this church will unfurl with the Spirit's energizing breeze!

Peace,
Pastor Deb.



Looking Ahead....

BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday, March 16th

Boy Scout Troop 31 will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church (225 Williams St., Huron, OH 44839) on Friday, March 16th from 5-7:30 pm. The dinner includes spaghetti, roll, salad, drink and a dessert. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Carry out is available.



MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Thursday, March 29th

Our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service will be held on Thursday, March 29th @ 7 pm in our sanctuary.

EASTER BRUNCH

Sunday, April 1st

Join us for an Easter Brunch before our worship service on Sunday, April 1st. Look out for more details on this event in the coming weeks! We look forward to seeing you there!





PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCHES OF HURON

MARCH

March 4, 2018

Zion Lutheran Church

March 11, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
Reverend Deborah Bowsher

March 18, 2018

Grace Fellowship Church
Reverend Larry Oldaker

March 25, 2018

Christ Episcopal Church
Reverend Michael Floyd

Move on quickly, moody, deceptive March.
You depress my hopes for joy filled springtime beauty.

In the morning you display glorious sunshine
Only to dash my afternoons with cold rain or frozen drizzle.

Perhaps when April Easter arrives with bright flowers
I'll forget your moods and grant you seasonal credits.

Written by Eileen M. Darby-Wikel 2018

PASTOR DEB'S OFFICE HOURS

Open Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Appointments beyond those hours are also welcome.

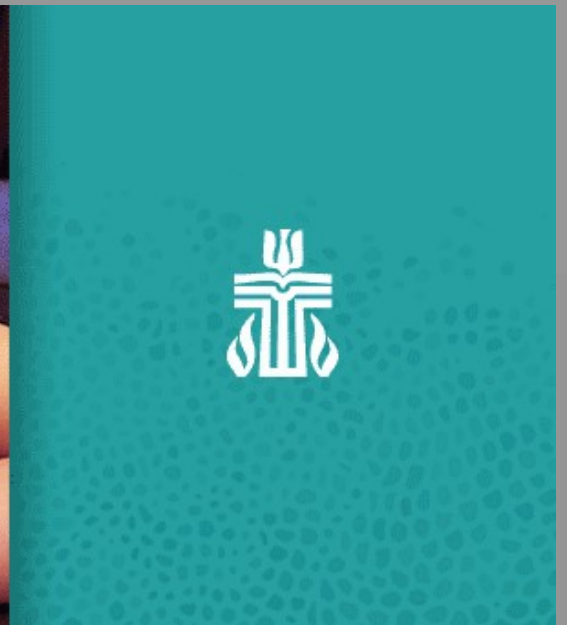
You may her call anytime at 614-309-0417.

LENTEN SUPPERS & STUDY

All are welcome to join us for Lenten meals on Wednesday evenings @ 5 pm. Whenever there is a Christ's Community Meal, all are invited to join in the community dinner. Afterwards, please stay and join us for our Lenten Study on the Apostles Creed @ 6 pm.



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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Have you ever....

taught a child to fold their fingers inside their hands and say the rhyme,
“here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people?”

The wiggling fingers teach children, and adults, too, that the church is not the building — the steeples, windows, or structure, but people gathering to worship God.

There’s something else in the children’s rhyme. As the child breaks open their hands to reveal the people,” they move their fingers back and forth, often as fast as they can. This simple move reminds us that the church is the energy and actions that share the love of Christ.

- When a disaster strikes, people give, volunteer, and pray so that those impacted receive help and hope, *this is church.*
- When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its root causes, *this is church.*

When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power, *this is church.*

The church is the Holy Spirit’s transforming power emanating into the world sharing the compassion, justice, love, and peace of Christ. Presbyterians join the movement of the Spirit into every corner of the Earth — and in this season, through our church-wide One Great Hour of Sharing.

- *We share — and church happens with women who were once trafficked for domestic labor and now own their own cooperative business.*
 - *We share — and church happens with people through land rights training and improvements to farming methods.*
- We share — and church happens with those whose homes have been washed away by flood, as the arms of comfort wrap around them, and hands pick up shovels to assist.*

Join us for One Great Hour of Sharing.



Congrats to our Little Wonders Preschool for receiving another 5-Star rating from Step Up to Quality! We are so proud of our preschool teachers Kim and Amber!

*Pictured above: Our Little Wonders checking out the framing for their igloo that was built by Joe Muise.

*Pictured right and pictured below: Their igloo is almost finished!





Equipping Church Leaders to Preach: Cohort #2

Contact & Enrollment Information

Tom Polker
tompolker@gmail.com

- Join us for a 12 month journey to awaken new spiritual gifts and experience spiritual transformation**
- Discover new relationships through interactive study and partnering churches
 - Learn the skills to communicate the gospel effectively
 - Develop a deeper personal understanding of the scriptures
 - Find deep personal fulfillment in bring the good news to others
 - Grow in your knowledge of faith
 - Become proficient in studying the Bible
 - Glean from the hands-on experience of others
 - Gain confidence in speaking publicly

- Program Overview**
- 6 one-day seminars of instruction and interactive application
 - Additional outside reading recommended by teaching staff
 - Connection to a "teaching congregation" to practice preaching
 - Access to a mentor to help you in the preaching discipline
 - Introduction to various study and preaching styles
 - Assistance in developing and preaching four sermons
 - Instruction in designing worship services

- Tentative Seminar Dates**
- 5/19/18
Theology (Framework)
 - 6/16/18
Exegesis (Interpretation)
 - 7/21/18
Homiletics (Writing Tools)
 - 8/18/18
Homiletics (Speaking Tools)
 - 10/13/18
Liturgy & Lectionary
 - 12/1/18
Spiritual Formation

\$25
(plus cost of books)

Scholarships May Be Available



March 2 Casey Wittmer
 March 5 William Marsh
 March 5 Harry Wright
 March 8 Hollie Mueller
 March 9 Bob Kaman
 March 12 Katherine Brouse
 March 15 Andrea Kaman
 March 16 Cordell Holloway
 March 18 Ann Hansen
 March 26 Carol Mack
 March 28 John Phillips
 March 29 Ann Marie Koch



March 3 Little Wonders Open House @ 10 am—noon
 March 5 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
 March 6 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am
 March 7 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5 pm/6 pm
 March 14 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5 pm/6 pm
 March 14 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
 March 14 F&M and Worship Meetings @ 7 pm
 March 15 N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm
 March 16 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner @ 5-7:30 pm
 March 19 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
 March 19 March Steeple Notes Deadline
 March 20 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am
 March 21 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5 pm/6 pm
 March 21 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
 March 24 Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
 March 28 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
 March 28 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5 pm/6 pm
 March 29 Maundy Thursday Service
 March 30 Community Good Friday Service



	Ushers	Liturgist	Hospitality	Flowers
March 4	John Bickell & Sarah Blakeman	Steve Koenig	<i>volunteer needed</i>	
March 11	<i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Tammy Boos	<i>volunteer needed</i>	
Communion Servers: Char Schumann, Carol Mack, Mike Prout, and Sarah Prout				Set-up: Karen Brown
March 18	<i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Karen Brown	<i>volunteer needed</i>	Chris & Gayle Bacquet
March 25	<i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Casey Wittmer	<i>volunteer needed</i>	Mark & Pat Koch



MARCEH 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Worship @10:45am (2-Cents-A-Meal/ Communion)	5 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	6 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am PW Circle @ 7 pm	7 Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm	1 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	2 Church Women United @ 1 pm	3 Little Wonders Open House @ 10 am-noon
11 Worship @10:45am	12 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	13 14 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm	14 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm	8 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	9 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon	10 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon
18 Worship @10:45am	19 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	20 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am	21 Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm Session Meeting @ 7 pm	15 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm F&M @ 7 pm N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm	16 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner @ 5-7:30 pm	17 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner @ 5-7:30 pm
25 Worship @10:45am	26 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	27 28 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm	28 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm	22 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	23 29 Office Closed @ Noon Community Good Friday Service	24 Lions Pancake Breakfast