



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

Dear Church,

Since Pentecost you may've noticed that my sermons are echoing a common theme:

- Throughout our lives God makes new and different calls on each of us.
- How does Jesus' notion of family being more than members of your blood line invite you to act in your day to day life?
- How can we Presbyterians nurture God's great and wondrous mustard bush and create a free and safe place where all kinds of birds can shelter?

Though it's summertime, FPCH needs to begin a bit of a ministry check-up. So how is God calling us to serve in 2018 and beyond? Who are we to love, nurture and serve on God's behalf? How are we to be Jesus' body NOW?

Presbyterians from across the nation are asking the same questions. During the recent 223rd General Assembly representatives asked "How are we to put our faith into action?"

Of course they looked at issues no one church can impact meaningfully by themselves. For instance:

- In considering the controversial issue of climate change, they asked how the denomination might best protect the earth.



- They boldly voted to call for an end to the government's policy of separating migrant parents from children at the US border.
- They encouraged all of us to consider the value of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" as a potential faith confession to help us look more closely at structural racism and inequality.

No matter what any one of us believes about these matters, each challenges us. And each invites us to consider how we might respond to the issues facing Erie Countians – the issues we can impact as an individual congregation or person.

When I first considered coming here I read important words the pastoral search team had prepared. They said that in an ever changing world, your mission stays rooted in your proud heritage and the firm foundation of the love and justice of God, spirituality and your strong belief that all are children of God. It said you seek to nurture people of all ages in the Christian faith, assisting, accepting, listening to and reaching out to your neighbors, and inviting others into your faith family.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS CONTINUED...

You spoke of several wonderful ministries that address local issues of concern... Ministries like welcoming Boy Scouts and AA to the building so they could fulfill their life giving missions, supporting the community prayer path and labyrinth, and hosting Christ's Meals and Little Wonders.

But those words also made it clear that you want to be invigorated and empowered by the Holy Spirit to unleash the gifts and blessings God has given you so this congregation, along with your neighbors, may grow in faith.



So how can we do that? Perhaps by wrestling with questions similar to those in my sermons:

- Which of our current ministries and ways of doing church give us life – and give life to our neighbors?
- Are there any that are tired and ready to be gently retired?
- How can we best attend to the needs of the youngest, the most senior or the most vulnerable in our community?
- Are we being called to any new ministries that rise from recent events in the region, country or world?
- Are we doing our best to love, nurture and serve people inside and outside the church in Christ's name?

Though these questions can cause an uptick in our anxiety levels, it's been several years since this congregation deeply considered what God is asking of us *now*. *Like the General Assembly we too need to renew the vision of how we are called to help build God's kingdom for the 21st century.*

So this summer I invite you to prayerfully consider these questions. Dream a little about the future God is leading us towards. Talk about these things with one another.

Over time committees and session will gather your ideas and consider how we might respond to whatever God is calling us... And with assurance of God's grace-filled love we will step out boldly to serve and nurture the world around us as Jesus' body NOW.

In Peace,
Pastor Deb.



Looking Ahead....

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, July 8th

Join us for a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 8th immediately following the worship service. The topic of the discussion will be the worship time. No other business will be conducted during this meeting. Please stay to give your input.



VBS

July 9th-13th

The VBS program will take place at the Methodist Church from July 9th to July 13th from 9 am to 11:30 am. We'll be spending "awhile on the Nile," and learning the story of Joseph's journey from prison to palace in ancient Egypt. It's not too late to volunteer! If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 419-433-5018.

HURON RIVER FEST

July 13th-15th

The Huron City River Fest will be held on July 13th-15th. Stop on out for some family fun! Parking will be available at the church throughout the weekend. On Saturday, July 14th there will be a Car Show here in the church parking lot.



ON PRAYER

How do you pray?

Be yourself. Use whatever words are most natural to you. And express yourself as you are, not as you imagine God says you ought to be. Be direct, honest and specific. God knows how you feel. So whether you are angry, sad, disturbed, happy, afraid or selfish, don't cover up. God understands. Pray in simple words for what you want. Eloquence is a gift we don't all have.

When do you pray?

Pray continually, says St. Paul, for all things and in all circumstances. A Christian life is a life of prayer. Not just "table grace" or memorized bedtime prayers. Pray while doing things like mowing the lawn, folding the laundry, or taking a walk. One woman prayed every time she closed a door!

Where do you pray?

Pray anywhere: alone and together; at home and at work, in the car and the store. The early disciples met and devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14). And prayer in worship is Christ's commandment to the church.

So, consider your prayer life. And consider joining our church's prayer group. As C.H. Spurgeon put it: "Prayer meetings were the arteries of the early church. Through them life-sustaining power was derived."

In July, the Church Prayer Group are meeting on Monday the 9th, and Monday the 23rd at 1:00pm. Our prayers are not elaborate or complicated. We stutter and stammer. But we are sincere. And, we believe in the power of prayer and the promise of God that he hears us.



HURON VENTURING TROOP 31

The First Presbyterian Church of Huron is now taking applications from young women aged 14 to 21 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade) interested in adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service.

Applications are available online for youth and adults or at the church office, 225 Williams Street during office hours 8:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 3:30. Applications can also be picked up immediately after our 10am Service on Sundays, please see Chuck or Cindy Kaman.

For more information, email HuronCrew31@gmail.com.



RENEWING THE VISION:

Kindom building for the 21st century

by Leslie Scanlon, *Outlook* national reporter

The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
St. Louis, Missouri – June 16-23, 2018

Presbyterians took to the streets at the 2018 General Assembly, with hundreds marching from the convention center to the City Justice Center with \$47,200 in donations – money the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) collected during opening worship, and which was used to bail out people incarcerated for minor offenses who could not afford to pay their fines or make bail.

It's a "passion for ministry and the love of Jesus that drives us out of the church and into the streets," J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk of the PC(USA), said during a midweek rally.

This was a General Assembly that felt viscerally linked to the news of the day: climate change, immigrant parents being separated from their children at the borders, gun violence.

Over and over, this question came up: ***How to put faith into action?***

Floretta Barbee-Watkins, pastor of The Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, preached that it's easy to get discouraged, but Jesus, faith and love move people forward even when they are weary. The PC(USA) has "made some bad biscuits," Barbee-Watkins said, but confession and a willingness to "deal with the urgent needs of our siblings and the church" propel Christians to action. She challenged: "Beloved, rise up, let's make some new biscuits."

Climate change. The assembly voted 332-178 to continue corporate engagement with oil and natural gas companies, working through the denomination's Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee, rather than to divest the PC(USA)'s holdings in fossil fuel companies. This was one of the hardest-fought issues at the assembly, with 40 presbyteries supporting an overture for fossil fuel divestment, saying the church has waited long enough to act to protect the earth, and with others contending it's better to stay at the table and use the investments as leverage to push for industry changes.

Family separation. The assembly voted 484-34 to approve a resolution calling for an immediate end to the government's policy of separating parents from children as migrants attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. It calls for federal authorities to promptly reunite parents and children who have been separated, and to place families "under the care of the community," rather than in detention.



Per capita. The assembly approved a General Assembly per capita rate of \$8.95 per member for 2019 and \$8.95 for 2020 – up from \$7.73 per member in 2018. That was a source of constant tension during this assembly: How to meet urgent ministry needs, from drug addiction to mental health to ministry with small churches, while not raising per capita so high it raises resistance from mid councils and congregations?

The Way Forward. The assembly approved a report from the Way Forward Commission, which the 2016 General Assembly created to consider changes needed at the top levels of the denomination. The action will mean a new, more equitable governance structure for the PC(USA), A Corporation (a secular corporation used to conduct church business). Also part of that proposal: a financial sustainability study and a commitment to translate PC(USA) resources into languages other than English.

Leadership. Taking four ballots to do so, the assembly elected as its co-moderators Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann, an educator and a mid council leader, a ruling elder and a minister, two “audacious, spirited, bold, unapologetic women,” as Cintrón-Olivieri put it. She is a native of Puerto Rico, for whom Spanish is her first language.

Race and inequality. From preaching to marching to overtures, the need to confront structural racism and systemic inequality echoed through this gathering. As a sign of that commitment, the assembly voted 352-160 to begin the long process of adding Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” to the PC(USA)’s Book of Confessions.

World concerns. The assembly spoke to concerns around the world — including in Yemen, Korea, South Sudan and Nicaragua. One tangible example: The assembly agreed to make the PC(USA) a partner with a Salvadoran church working to reduce gang-related violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador — violence that’s causing people to flee for their safety.

#MeToo. The assembly voted 474-19 to have the PC(USA) confess its failure to listen to survivors of pastoral sexual misconduct; to report annually the number of sexual misconduct charges brought in the denomination; and to set up a task force of survivors of sexual abuse.

Social justice. This assembly felt pulled to public advocacy. It called for a moratorium on imposing the death penalty. It asked Presbyterians to pray for a movement of the Spirit to end gun violence. It voted to affirm the dignity and humanity of people of all sexual orientations. Time and again, the assembly acted to tell the world, “This is what Presbyterians stand for.”

Visit pres-outlook.org for more.

The Presbyterian
OUTLOOK



IN THE COMMUNITY



Erie County Senior Center

Chicken BBQ

(featuring Grandma's Backyard BBQ)



Sunday, July 15, 2018

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

½ Chicken

Scalloped Potatoes

Baked Beans

Dinner Roll

Lemonade (dine-in only)

Carry-Out Available

\$10

Tickets available at the Senior Center.

Proceeds to benefit meals-on-wheels

New this year:

Model T Car Show featuring Model-T rides for \$2.00

620 E. Water Street, Sandusky
(Corner of Water Street & Meigs Street)



Vacation Bible School

Win Prizes and a FREE T-Shirt with ONLINE Registration

Summer Fun in Huron 2018

**Monday July 16th to Thursday
July 19th**

6 pm to 8:00 pm Ages 4 to 12

Crafts - Bible Lessons - Music - Games - Singing - Snacks

(Thursday ICE Cream Closing Party)

Location: Lighthouse Church 820 Cleveland Rd E Huron 419-433-8889

Register at www.lighthouseagc.org

Go to VBS tab on the website

No Cost to attend Limited Space





July 1 Bryce Haase
 July 4 Ellen Drumm
 July 4 Ron Ruble
 July 5 Bill Stann
 July 6 Grace Moser
 July 7 Twila Rowe
 July 9 Herb Chapin
 July 10 Andrew Muntz
 July 11 Julie Koenig
 July 12 Megan Kirby
 July 14 Clair Brewer
 July 14 Robert Brouse
 July 15 John Drumm
 July 16 Janet Mueller
 July 21 Susan Martter
 July 21 Dennis Velliquette
 July 22 Mark Koch
 July 24 Terry Burke
 July 25 Michael Prout
 July 28 John Glann
 July 29 Cynthia Brown

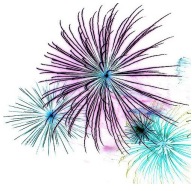


July 3 Staff Meeting @ 10:30 am
 July 4 OFFICE CLOSED
 July 7 Huron Fireworks @ 10:15 pm
 July 8 Congregational Meeting (following worship)
 July 9-13 Vacation Bible School @ 9-11:30 am
 July 9 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
 July 11 Christ's Meal @ 5 pm
 July 11 Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm
 July 13-15 Huron River Fest
 July 18 Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm
 July 23 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
 July 25 Christ's Meal @ 5 pm

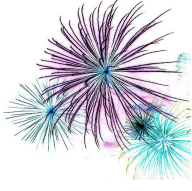




**God Bless America, Land That I Love,
 Stand Beside Her, And Guide Her, Thru
 the Night With a Light From Above**

	Ushers	Liturgist	Hospitality	Flowers
July 1	Edwina Chamberlin & Rachel Pratt		Prout Family	Ron Ruble
Communion Server: Chuck Kaman		Communion Set-up: Cynthia Brown Mathews		
July 8	Susan & Marc Martter		Kathy Kirby	Bob & Marcie Muntz
July 15	Jack & Marcia Arthur		Patti Smith	Jann Glann/Kathy & Tom Kirby
July 22	June Hanes & Patti Smith		Kaman Family	Mark & Pat Koch
July 29	Kathy Kirby & Ron Ruble		Grace & Ava Moser	Jann & Kerry Glann



JULY 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship @10:00am (2-Cents-A-Meal/ Communion) Prout Baptism	2 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	3 Staff Meeting @ 10:30 am	4  OFFICE CLOSED in Observance of Independence Day	5	6 Mason/Perma Rehearsal	7 Mason/Perma Wedding Huron Fireworks @ 10:15pm 
8 Worship @10:00am Congregational Meeting (immediately following wor- ship/discuss worship time)	9 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	10 Staff Meeting @ 10:30 am	11 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm	12	13 Huron River Fest	14 Huron River Fest
15 Worship @10:00am Huron River Fest	16 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	17	18 Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm	19	20	21
22 Worship @10:00am	23 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	24	25 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm	26	27	28
29 Worship @10:00am	30 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	31				

Vacation Bible School ~ 9-11:30