

GOD'S LOVE IS WIDE AND DEEP

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

--Ephesians 3:17b-19

In 2019, many people reminisced on the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing. Looking up at the sky at night, it still boggles the mind that humanity was able to send people to land and walk upon the surface of the moon, and that they returned safely to us.

If you are a fan of the Netflix drama "The Crown", you may have seen the episode dealing with the British royal family's fascination with the lunar landing, and their invitation to the astronauts to visit with them at Buckingham Palace. The visit from the astronauts is not the main topic of the episode. Instead, the episode primarily deals with Prince Philip's crisis of faith. (Spoiler alert: If you are currently watching "The Crown", please view the episode "Moondust" before continuing with this reading.)

"The Crown" chronicles Philip's difficult childhood. Though he was royalty, his family was exiled. His parents' marriage broke down. His mother spent many years institutionalized. One of his sisters and her family died in a plane crash. His family had members that fought on both sides in World War II. He developed a toughness in his life which did not allow for a loving God.

Not seen in "The Crown" is Easter Sunday, 1964. Queen Elizabeth and Philip's son, Charles, was confirmed in the Anglican Church. He chose for himself to be confirmed in the faith. His father disapproved, saying he was too young to know what he believed. Instead of worshipping that Easter Sunday, Philip spent the service in the pew reading a book, putting on display his lack of interest in faith.

In "The Crown", Philip is beyond thrilled for his opportunity to meet the astronauts. He assumes that they are going to have deep philosophical insights into their space exploration. When he meets them, he is underwhelmed. They are ordinary people who did something extraordinary. Philip must grapple with the fact that although science and philosophy can and do give insight and meaning to life, they cannot fully feed the soul.

Philip does eventually find his way back to God, with the help of an Anglican Priest who invites him to explore faith with clergy who are burned out. Philip helps to raise funds for a retreat center on the grounds of Windsor, and even dialogues with clergy who are on retreat. Through these discussions, Philip begins to understand "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26th. That evening we will have a short worship service at 6:30 p.m. This will begin the 40 day journey to Easter. Beginning on February 25th, we will begin a study called *The God We Can Know*. It's an examination of Jesus' "I Am" statements throughout the book of John. You can read more about the study elsewhere in the newsletter, but I want to encourage you to purchase the book and follow along whether or not you are able to come to our weekly study. Maybe you are like Philip, in need of a kick-start to your faith. Or maybe you really need to search the depths of Christ's love for you. Maybe you just want to enjoy the fellowship and discussion. Whatever the reason, my prayer is that we will all come to know more "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."



Photo Credit: Truth in Love Ministry

Looking Ahead....

RETIRED TEACHERS LUNCHEON

Friday, February 14th

On Friday, February 14th, we'll be hosting a Retired Teachers Luncheon. We are seeking volunteers to help set-up, serve, or clean-up. There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



LENTEN SUPPER/STUDY

Tuesday, February 25th-Tuesday, April 7th

Beginning Tuesday, February 25th and continuing through Tuesday, April 7th in the Fellowship Hall we will start our Lenten Study on Rob Fuquay's *The God We Can Know*. A light supper will be served at 5:30 pm followed by a discussion of the weekly reading from 6-7 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 26th @ 6:30 pm

Join us as we begin our Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday worship service. Observing Ash Wednesday helps us to remember our utter reliance upon God, to contemplate the sacrifices Christ made for us, and our own sinfulness and need for repentance. This will be a time of music, prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.



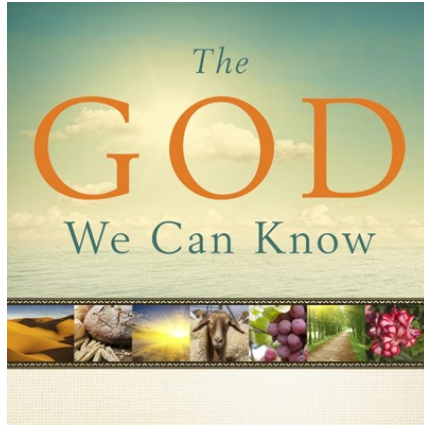
LENTEN SUPPER/STUDY

The God We Can Know: A Lenten Study

Tuesdays, February 25th-April 7th

Soup: 5:30 p.m. Study: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives us the "I Am" sayings, meaningful metaphors such as "I am the bread of life" and "I am the light of the world," to reveal his mission and purpose. One by one, the "I Am" sayings of Jesus not only grab our imagination about Jesus' identity, they also help us to experience God, who spoke the first "I AM" to Moses. Join us for this insightful worship and study series as we learn more about the God we can know and as we seek to answer Jesus' question to us, "Who do you say I am?"



- **Week 1:** Introduction to the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus: Knowing God
- **Week 2:** "I Am the Bread of Life": Knowing God's Satisfaction
- **Week 3:** "I Am the Light of the World": Knowing God's Guidance
- **Week 4:** "I Am the Good Shepherd": Knowing God's Care
- **Week 5:** "I Am the True Vine": Knowing God's Power
- **Week 6:** "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life": Knowing God's Way
- **Week 7:** "I Am the Resurrection and the Life": Knowing God's Possibilities

Books are \$10 each. Large print versions are available upon request at the same cost. If you would like to purchase a Kindle version, it is \$7.99 on Amazon. If you would like to order a copy, please let Pastor Sara know, or call Becky in the church office.

PER CAPITA: WHAT IS IT?

There are 10,000 Presbyterian Church USA congregations in the United States, and we are all connected to one another through our Presbytery, Synods, and General Assembly. For over 150 years, the Presbyterian Church has used the Per Capita funding system to pay for the operating costs of the wider church. When we pay Per Capita, we are paying for all of the administrative and ecclesiastical systems in our denomination. Per Capita enables churches to call pastors; supports those pastors in their ministries; provides for guidance in troubled times; encourages those called to church leadership; and enables us to gather as the body of Christ. **This year's Per Capita is \$35.70 per member.** \$8.95 goes to the Office of the General Assembly. \$3.25 goes to the Synod of the Covenant. \$23.70 goes to the Maumee Valley Presbytery. Our congregation is bound to pay \$35.70 per member of our church. Although Per Capita is included as a line item in the budget, you can help offset the costs of Per Capita. Please consider contributing \$35.70. In doing so, you are helping our denomination continue its important ministries.

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCHES OF HURON

February 2, 2020

Lighthouse Assembly of God Church

February 9, 2020

St. Peter Catholic Church
Father Jeff McBeth

February 16, 2020

Huron United Methodist Church
Pastor Pamela Sayre

February 23, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church
Pastor Kristine Schroeder

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Where God is, there is hope for the suffering and the vulnerable. Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

- ◆ **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE-** Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters .
- ◆ **PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM-** Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- ◆ **SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE-** Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

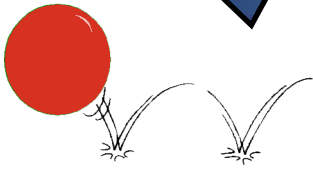
IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Text SHARING to 56512 to donate or give to OGHS by placing your gift in the designated special offering envelope and placing it in the offering plate.

MARCH FOR MEALS

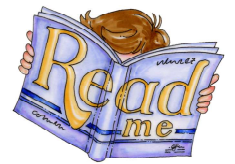
March is designated as a nationwide celebration for Meals on Wheels. Named "March for Meals", communities across the country are asked to support a program that allows seniors to live healthy, happy and independent lives at home, where they want to be. In Erie County, alone, over 71,000 meals were delivered to clients during 2019. While we all celebrate the increase in lifespan, maintaining health while aging comes with a price. Without support from programs like Meals on Wheels, millions of seniors are forced to prematurely trade their homes for nursing facilities. It costs less to provide a senior with Meals on Wheels for an entire year than it costs to spend one day in the hospital or six days in a nursing home. Meals on Wheels has been guided by a single goal since the first known U.S. delivery by a small group of Philadelphia citizens in 1954 – to support our senior neighbors to extend their independence and health as they age. What started as a compassionate idea has grown into one of the largest and most effective social movements in America, currently helping nearly 2.4 million seniors annually in virtually every community in the country. In addition, the Meals on Wheels Program is in need of a few more hands. Could you help out one day per week from 10:30 to noon? This is a great activity to participate in with a friend and enjoy some true quality time together. Thank you so much for your help.





LITTLE WONDERS

The Little Wonders had SNOW much fun in January! They made two different types of snow. The preschoolers even had an indoor snowball fight using crumpled, paper balls with letters to practice the alphabet. They enjoyed making their very own bouncy balls for "letter B" day! The students even used hot chocolate to conduct sink or float experiments. Rev. Sara read to the children each week, and they thoroughly enjoyed her visits and stories.





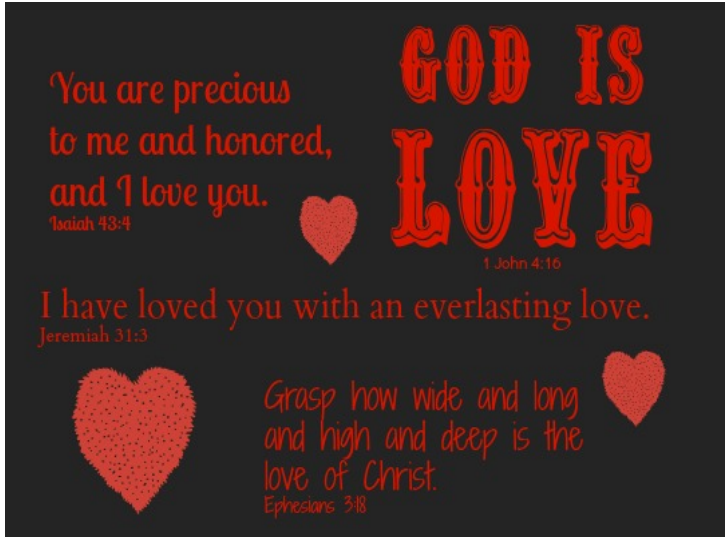
- February 3 Dan Robertson
- February 5 Harold Behnken
- February 10 Thomas Work
- February 13 Craig Johnson
- February 14 Doug Brown
- February 14 Harold Wright
- February 17 Martha Eileen Stewart
- February 18 Jack Arthur
- February 22 Patti Smith
- February 25 Debbie Schippel
- February 25 Witmer J. Symmonds
- February 25 Ann Wright
- February 26 Jenny Hagy
- February 26 Phillip Hopkins



- February 2 Scout Sunday
- February 10 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
- February 11 Worship Committee Meeting @ 9 am
- February 12 Christ's Meal @ 5 pm
- February 12 Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm
- February 14 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon
- February 18 Steeple Notes Deadline
- February 19 Session @ 7 pm
- February 24 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
- February 25 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5:30– 7 pm
- February 26 Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 pm



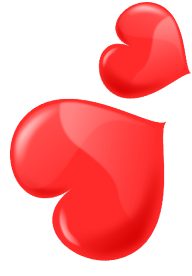
Reminder: If your contact information has changed, please don't forget to notify the office with the updated info. We'll be working on the next directory very soon.



	Ushers	Liturgist	Hospitality	Flowers
Feb. 2	Lukas Boeseneilers, Scott Allen, Chuck Kaman & Bob Kaman	Jens & Colin Kay	Boy Scouts	Ron Ruble
Feb. 9	Kathy Kirby & Ron Ruble	Phillip Hopkins	Kathy Kirby	Patti Smith
Communion Servers: John Bickell , Kathy Kirby & need 2 volunteers			Communion Set-up: Carolyn Culbertson	
Feb. 16	Chuck & Bob Kaman	Rachel Pratt	Sarah Blakeman	Phillip & Janeane Hopkins
Feb. 23	Jack & Marcia Arthur	Karen Brown	Patti Smith	



FEBRUARY 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Scout Sunday Adult Bible Study @8:45am Worship @10:00am (2-Cents-A-Meal)	3 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	4	5	6 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	7	8
9 Adult Bible Study @8:45am Worship @10:00am (Communion)	10 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	11 Worship Committee Meeting @ 9 am	12 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Giftfriends in God @ 6pm	13 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	14 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon	15
16 Adult Bible Study @8:45am Worship @10:00am	17 Steeple Notes Deadline Hot Dog Monday @ noon	18	19 Session @ 7pm	20 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	21	22
23 Adult Bible Study @8:45am Worship @10:00am	24 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	25 Lenten Supper @ 5:30 pm Study @ 6-7 pm	26 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30pm	27 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	28	29