Steeple Notes

A Message From the Pastor

During the summer, I always look forward to gatherings with families and friends. Most often, they are held in someone's backyard, with the grill blazing, the scent of hot dogs and hamburgers wafting in the air. There are lawn chairs and blankets for people to sit on. We play games like badminton, horseshoes, cornhole, or volleyball. As we all know, the Covid-19 virus has robbed us of these opportunities this year on a large scale, so I am especially grateful for the times when we gather on a smaller scale for our summer celebrations.

Jesus loved social gatherings like backyard barbeques. In fact, his very first miracle was performed at a wedding--he changed water into wine at the wedding of Cana.

Jesus not only loved social gatherings, but he transformed them. His final social gathering was the last meal he enjoyed with his disciples. It was at that social gathering that he instituted the Lord's Supper. Our Book of Order reminds us that through the Lord's Supper, Jesus "nourishes us in righteousness, faithfulness, and discipleship."

Covid-19 has taken away opportunities for us to gather around the Sacrament, the Lord's Supper. It was so difficult to observe Maundy Thursday and Easter without celebrating the Lord's Supper.

There have been other times in Church History where Christians were unable to celebrate the Lord's Supper due to circumstances. During the flu pandemic of 1918, many churches did not have worship services, and did not serve the Lord's Supper. In the 1800's, the church in Korea was without ordained leadership for 36 years and did not celebrate the Lord's Supper. Our fast from the Lord's Supper, although difficult, pales in comparison.

On August 2nd, we will finally celebrate the Lord's Supper as a community once again. You will be able to participate either at home or at the in-person worship service.

If you are worshipping at home, you will be able to pick up your communion elements during office hours the week of July 27th. Save them, and join us for the online worship service on August 2nd. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up the elements, please let us know. We are more than happy to deliver the elements to you! If you are worshipping at the church building, we will distribute the elements to you in a safe and sanitary way.

I'm looking forward to sharing the Lord's Supper with you again on Sunday, August 2nd.



Photo Credit: Delhi First Presbyterian Church

PRAYER GROUP-"LESSONS FROM COVID-19"

It's on our mind constantly and talked about in every conversation, but let's look at the coronavirus from God's point of view. God is great – He could have stopped this. God is good – he could have lessened the impact. But since he didn't do either of those things yet, what, if anything, is he trying to tell us. First of all I don't believe this pandemic is part of the future plagues predicted in Bible prophecy. But I do believe God is speaking to us through it and trying to teach us something,

If we look at the prophets, especially Amos, we see some lessons.

#1 God sometimes sends difficulties and hardships to get our attention so we will return to Him. See Amos Chapters 4 and 5.

#2 God use a variety of natural disasters to remind us we are not in control of life, He is. See Amos Chapter 6

#3 God calls on all His followers to share His Word with others. Amos was a shepherd, a layman, not a religious leader of any kind, who was called on to speak for God.

#4 God can and does respond to the heartfelt prayers of His people. Read Amos Chapter 7. God responded to Amos' heartfelt prayer and said "This will not happen."

While we recognize God's control over the universe, we also need to remember that God call on us to pray for our leaders, and for those around us. James reminds us that "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." Let's all share His Word with those around us, and pray for His mercy, while there is still time.

In August, The FPC Prayer Group will be offering their heartfelt prayers of mercy on August 10 and 24, at 1:00 pm. We need Pray-ers. Please consider joining us. Call Margaret Swords, Missy Sprankel, Carolyn Culbertson, JoAnna Work, Rev. Sara Hodsden, or Susan Martter. We will pray for you!

Written By: Susan Martter on behalf of the FPC Huron Prayer Group



BAPTISMS

On July 5th, our congregation welcomed three children into the community of faith in baptism. Charles Conrad Prout is the son of Kristie and David Prout. Addison Jane Gabrielle Weiner is the daughter of Maggie and Ronnie Weiner. Henry Michael Meehan is the son of Ellen and Daniel Meehan. All are grandchildren of Sarah and Michael Prout. Congratulations to all!

Session Members

Sarah Blakeman- N&M/Nominating Co-chair

Gail Burke-Stewardship

Carolyn Culbertson-Nominating, Co-chair

Ellen Drumm- N&M

June Hanes- Worship Chair

Phillip Hopkins-F&M Chair

Chuck Kaman-Christian Education Chair

Patti Smith- N&M Co-chair

Doug Quinn-F&M

Marcia Arthur- Clerk of Session



August 7	Michael Jett
August 12	Margaret Symmonds
August 13	Richard Haase
August 14	Kevin McGraw
August 16	Doug Quinn
August 19	Sharon Roose
August 20	Tom Mueller
August 22	John Blakeman
August 26	Vern Schisler
August 31	Jeannine Asher
August 31	Will Koenig

Prayer Calendar for the Churches of Huron

August 2, 2020

Huron United Methodist Church Pastor Pamela Sayre

August 9, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church Pastor Kristine Schroeder

August 16, 2020

First Presbyterian Church Pastor Sara Hodsden

August 23, 2020

Christ Episcopal Church Rev. Michael Floyd

August 30, 2020

Lighthouse Assembly of God Church

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As we continue to be challenged by the Covid-19 outbreak, we will continue to worship in person at this time. Pastor Sara, the staff, and the Session is so grateful to all of you for wearing your masks to worship. We know it is not comfortable or convenient.

Please know that the staff and Session of our congregation are monitoring current Erie County Health Department recommendations. The staff and Session may determine a return to online only worship if certain factors arise. We will have to return to online worship for two weeks if someone who attended worship tests positive for Covid-19. We may also return to online only worship if Erie County reaches a Level Four health emergency. No one individual will make this decision. The Pastor and the Worship Committee chair will make the call, in consultation with Session.

Stay safe during this pandemic, and continue to pray for essential workers, first responders, teachers and students, and the scientific community which is working so hard on finding a vaccine for this virus.





We have new, hand sanitizing stations placed throughout the building!



AUGUST 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Ë	Sat
						1
2 Worship @10:00 am (2-Cents-A-Meal/ Communion)	3 Hot Dog Monday Meal (TAKE-OUT ONLY) @ noon	4	5	9	2	∞
9 Worship @10:00 am	10 Hot Dog Monday Meal (TAKEOUT ONLY) @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	11	12 Christ's Community Meal (TAKE-OUT ONLY) @ 5 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship @10:00 am	17 Hot Dog Monday Meal (TAKE-OUT ONLY) @ noon	18	19 Session Meeting @ 7pm	20	21	22
23 Worship @10:00 am	24Steeple Notes Deadline Hot Dog Monday Meal (TAKE-OUT ONLY) @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	25	26 Christ's Community Meal (TAKE-OUT ONLY) @ 5 pm	27	28	29
30 Worship @10:00 am	31					