

Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Rev. Sara Hodsdon

December 2020



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fskitguys.com%2>

A Message from your Pastor

What's your favorite Christmas movie? As a native Clevelander, I think I am legally bound to say "A Christmas Story". Perhaps you make a tradition out of watching "It's A Wonderful Life", "Elf", "Home Alone" or one of many of the versions of "A Christmas Carol." A popular online debate I've witnessed is whether "Die Hard" is considered a Christmas movie or not (for the record, I believe it is).

I am a movie fan because I enjoy watching a story unfold before my eyes. I have watched nearly every version of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" during this pandemic. I always know how the story is going to end, but I enjoy watching the story play out. Even though I know that Elizabeth and Darcy will profess their love for one another in the end, I am at the edge of my seat waiting for the moment to happen.

The story of Christmas is like that. We know all about the prophecies, the visits from the angels, the long donkey ride that Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Jerusalem, the shepherds, the star, and the three wise men. The story never changes, but as Christians we await the coming of Christ on the edge of our seat.

This Advent, I will be preaching a series called "Coming Soon". Each week, we will work through a bit of the epic story-- the preparations of John the Baptist, the plot twist which comes when Mary and Elizabeth greet one another, and the climax of the story, the birth of Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that during this Advent season we will grow in our own anticipation for the coming of our Lord. I also hope that we will see that this story is different from the stories we watch in a theater, or when we are being couch potatoes. This story, which is still unfolding today, has a role for you! You have a part in this story! Join us in person, or on Facebook Live, each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to hear this story again, and to listen for how God can make you a part of His story.



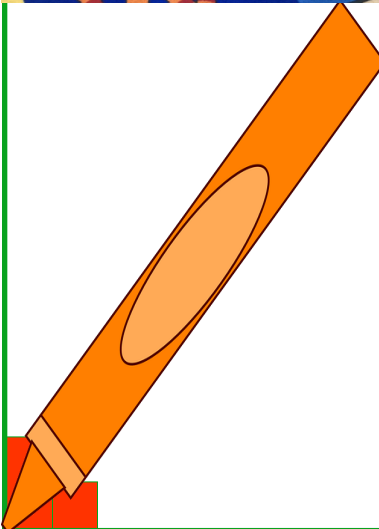
Little Wonders
Presbyterian Preschool

These little ones are excited to be back in school...They sure have missed their friends and teachers!



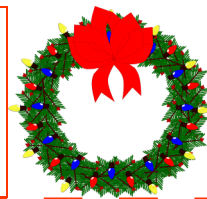
Learning all about colors

Orange day





Looking Ahead...



Christmas Eve Worship

We will have two opportunities for worship on Christmas Eve. At 7:00 p.m., we will post a casual Christmas Eve Service on Facebook. We will have scriptures, carols, and a reading on "The Christmas Mouse". At 11:00 p.m., we will have a traditional candle light Christmas Eve service. As of right now, this will be in-person and on Facebook Live. We look forward to worshipping with you on Christmas Eve.

Special Notice: Virtual Worship Only on Sunday, December 27th, on Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m.

Flowers

We are back to fresh flowers in the Sanctuary. A 2021 flower calendar will soon be posted in the parlor. Thank you to all who provide flowers for the beautification of the sanctuary.



Stewardship Campaign

Although 2020 has been a very challenging year, we are thankful and grateful that so many have been able to keep up with their giving. Your generosity has allowed FPC to continue to engage in ministry in our community. We are currently in the midst of our Stewardship campaign. The Stewardship Committee would like everyone to prayerfully consider increasing their pledge by 3% this year, if possible. This will allow us to continue with the many ministries of our church.

Thank you to all who have returned your 2021 pledge cards. If you did not receive your pledge card in the mail, please contact the church office and we will send one to you. Please return your pledge card to the church by December 13th.

Epiphany Home Blessing

Would you like to have your home blessed for 2021? On Wednesday, January 6th, Pastor Sara will be blessing homes to celebrate Epiphany. For more information on how to sign up, and what to expect, stay tuned!

Session Members:

Marcia Arthur—Clerk of Session
Carolyn Culbertson—Nominating, Co-chair June Hanes—Worship Chair,
Gail Burke—Stewardship Chair Sarah Blakeman—N&M/Nominating Co-chair
Ellen Drumm—N&M Chuck Kaman—Christina Education
Phillip Hopkins—F&M Doug Quinn—F&M Patti Smith—N&M Co-chair
Donna Myers—Treasurer Pastor Sara Hodsden



What's Happening



Random Thoughts On Prayer to Ponder

- * When Jesus prayed, something always happened.
- * Jesus assumes we pray - he says "when" you pray, not "if" you pray.
- * The only thing the disciples asked Jesus to teach them was how to pray.
- * Prayer is a dialogue not a monologue. Listening is required.
- * Prayer Group continues - let us know what we can pray for you.
- * Prayer boxes are in the Parlor and in the Fellowship Hall. This month's prayer group dates are Dec. 14th via Zoom meet.



- 12/2-Chris-Ann Hake-man
- 12/5- Fern DeLamatre
- 12/7- Karen Brown
- 12/16- Jeanne Smith
- 12/22- Jung Hun Marty Ryu
- 12/23- Megan Emerson
- 12/24- Edwina Chamberlin
- 12/25- Carol Johnson, Katy Mischler
- 12/29- Sharon Velliquette

Prayer Calendar for the churches of Huron:

- 12/1- Zion Lutheran Church
- 12/8-First Presbyterian Church..
- 12/15- Christ Episcopal Church..
- 12/22- Lighthouse Assembly of God..
- 12/29- St. Peter Catholic Church

Organ Restoration

One of the features of our sanctuary is the now nearly 40 year old Shull Organ. We've been blessed with so many wonderful organists over the years who have glorified God through music. As time has marched on, the organ is in need of a facelift. The interior of the organ needs cleaning. Pipes need to be straightened. The bellows need to be repaired. It is still a fine instrument, but without this maintenance the organ will continue to decline. The estimate for all repairs comes in between \$10,500-\$12,500. Some monies for this project can come from our Growth and Preservation fund, but we would still love those who are able to contribute to help us restore this organ. If you would like to contribute, you may do so online through our

Presbyterian Women

Helps us express our Christmas spirit each Advent by decorating a tree in Fellowship Hall. Although there is no tree decorating event this year, we will still be decorating the Fellowship Hall tree. You can help by decorating an angel or star ornament following worship on November 29th. If you are unable to come or stay after worship that day, please call Gail at 419-366-7009 between 12-2 on Sunday, November 29th, and we will decorate one for you!



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS



CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Christmas Joy Offering

One of our special offerings each year is the Christmas Joy Offering. The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God.

Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come

When we collect the Christmas Joy Offering, one-half goes to the assistance program, the other half goes to the ministry of Presbyterian related schools and colleges for people of color.

We will be taking up the offering on

The Christmas Joy Offering is one way we join together as Presbyterians from around the country. We do this to meet the needs of vulnerable people we might not be able to meet as individuals or as single congregations. We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together.

The gifts we share connect us. They also change lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we support church workers and their families who experience critical financial needs through help from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We connect with the young people attending Stillman College, Presbyterian Pan American School, and the Menaul School, supporting the education and leadership development for students of color, who will soon be leaders in our Church and in the world.

“God is with us.” All the time. During this season of Advent, as we approach Christmas, I can’t think of a more perfect gift than that. Thank you for sharing those lessons and those truths, through your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Please give generously, for “if we all do a little — *together* — it adds up to a lot.”

Let us pray~

God, we are your Church, together. Because of your son Jesus, we are brought together to serve those who lead your Church but find themselves in need. And we are brought together with students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who have the potential to lead your church and world in the future. In the name of the Christ,

December 2020

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 Bad Girls of the Bible @ 6p.m.	3	4	5
6 Worship @ 10 2-cents-a -meal	7 Hot Dog Monday @ 12	8	9 Christ Community Meal @ 5p.m. Bad Girls of the Bible @ 6p.m.	10	11	12
13 Worship @ 10	14 Hot Dog Monday @ 12 Prayer Group @ 1— Via Zoom	15 Worship Committee @ 9 a.m.	16 Session @ 7 p.m. Bad Girls of the Bible @ 6p.m.	17	18	19
20 Worship @ 10	21 Hot Dog Monday @ 12 Steeple Notes Deadline	22	23 Christ Community Meal @ 5p.m.	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship “Facebook ONLY” ** candle light Christmas Eve service @ 11 p.m.	25 	26
27 ** Virtual Worship Only Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m.	28 Hot Dog Monday @ 12	29	30	31		