

Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church
425 Williams St.
Huron, Ohio 44839
419-433-5018



A message from your Pastor

Man of Mystery

If I use the phrase “Man of Mystery”, who do you think about? Some may think of James Bond, the suave spy who defends the British Crown. Others may think of the much raunchier Austin Powers. Maybe you think about a masked crusader or superhero, such as the Lone Ranger or Batman. How about a woman of mystery? There’s Agatha Christie, who not only wrote mystery novels, but who staged her own disappearance without ever explaining why.

True men and women of mystery are by definition enigmatic. One cannot fully interpret who they are at any given moment. They leave much unknown about themselves. For example, we know “Mona Lisa” is smiling, but we don’t know what she is smiling about.

In our Christian faith, there is much mystery. The Gospel of Mark portrays our Savior as one who is mysterious. The Jesus who emerges in the pages of Mark is one who is divinely revealed, but otherwise unknowable. Little by little, throughout the Gospel, we learn about why Jesus walked among us, why he healed and exorcised demons, why he taught (and what his teachings mean), why he sacrificed himself for our sake.

January 10th through February 14th I will be preaching a series called “Man of Mystery”, which will explore what Jesus revealed about himself to his disciples, and why he so often told people “not to tell anybody” when he performed miracles. As we explore the mystery of Jesus’s identity, we will learn more about our own identity as Christ-followers, and how we, like the earliest followers, must live our faith with urgency.

Won’t you join us, either in-person or on Facebook Live, to explore the mysteries with us?

Little Wonder Preschool



They had a busy month filled with holiday lessons, and fun activities. They made cute little snowmen and gingerbread for their parents and performed the best virtual Christmas performance. Be sure to check out the performance online.



Thank you to Carolyn Culbertson, the Children enjoyed Our “Jesus Tree” every Monday during Advent.



Christmas Performance



Christmas Joy and Blessings

Thank you to PW and Nurture and Mission for our Beautifully decorated Sanctuary and Parlor.



EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS

On January 6th and 7th, Pastor Sara would like to bless your home with an Epiphany house blessing. This is an ancient Christian tradition where the clergy would pray at the entrance of the home for God's protection and blessing upon all who enter and exit the house. After the prayer, the clergy marks the home with chalk with the year, and with the letters C, M, B, which stand either for the traditional names of the wise men, or the phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" (Christ bless this home). Pastor Sara will stay on the outside of the home, and you do not even need to be present to have your home blessed.

To sign up, visit Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949AEA72AABF58-epiphany> or call the church office. Appointments are available for Wednesday, January 6th, and Thursday, January 7th.

Looking Ahead

Annual Congregational Meeting

Due to concerns about Covid-19, our annual congregational meeting will take place via Zoom on Sunday, January 17th at 11:30 a.m. An invitation will be sent to all church members with a link to the meeting. If you do not have computer access to Zoom, you can still participate via phone. Dial 1-929-205-6099, and enter the code 868 1450 2978. Please contact the church office for more questions.



**** Prayer Group will meet January 11th & 25th ****

Do you remember Daniel? He was in a foreign land, yet he pleased the King enough to be made a ruler in the Kingdom. Yet his position did not keep him from remembering his God. With purple robes and gold around his neck he still went three times a day to his upper chamber and got down on his knees and prayed, even when it went against the King's injunction. And when the King threw him into the lion's den, the mouths of the lion's were shut and no harm came to him. The King then declared that Daniel's God is "the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end". Dan. 6:26

When Daniel got down on his knees, God got up. When we get down on our knees, God gets up. He hears, he answers. So don't grow weary in prayer. Pray without doubting and give thanks to God who created all things "in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or ruler or authorities — all things..." Col. 1:16

Sunday Scripture Readings

January 3: Jeremiah 31:7-14

January 10: Mark 1:4-11

January 17: John 1:43-51

January 24: Mark 1:14-20

January 31: Mark 1:21-28

Happy Birthday!

1/3— William Roose
1/10— Tim Drumm
1/11— Pete Guerrero,
Marian Howland
1/12— Rita Phillips
1/15— Meghan Johnson,
Chris Mischler
1/16— Emma Horan
1/17— Barbara Gettman
1/20— Scott Ransom
1/23— Bethany Schippel
1/24— Ron Cook
1/26— Sheri Ransom
1/29— Rachel Pratt
1/30— Emma Corwin



2021 Flower Chart

Please take the time to reserve a date to honor special occasions and loved ones. There are still dates available, Thank you for your help in beautifying the sanctuary each Sunday!

Audio/Visual Help Needed

We are fortunate to have two members who are able to help livestream the Sunday morning service, but we could use a couple more. It is far, far simpler than you imagine! Please catch up with Pastor Sara and let her know you would like to be trained on livestreaming if you are interested.

What's Happening

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome four new members to our congregation.

Al and Karen Terenzi are residents of Huron, and come to us by letter of transfer. Al is a native of Sandusky, and works at PPG. Karen works at Civista Bank, and is a native of Huron.

Thomas Hodsden is a resident of Norwalk, Ohio, and comes to us by letter of transfer. He is a senior at Ashland University, majoring in history and political science. You may have seen Thomas in choir, or assisting with livestreaming our worship service.

Kitty Cunningham comes to us by letter of transfer from Plymouth. She currently resides in Huron with her sister and brother-in-law, Janeane and Phillip Hopkins.

Stewardship News

Thank you to all who have sent in your pledge cards for 2021. If you haven't done so yet, please send your pledge card to the church office. Our church's annual budget is dependent upon pledges.

Per Capita

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a connectional denomination. congregation has its own ministries, but we also minister through the denomination. In order to fund the important work of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, we pay a per-member offering known as "Per Capita". Each congregation is billed a certain amount per member. This year, that amount is \$37.23. In the coming weeks you will receive a mailing with information on just how per-capita is spent, and an envelope for you to contribute toward per-capita. Please prayerfully consider paying your portion to help our congregation with its budgetary needs.

Attention Committee Chairs: In order to have the Annual Reports ready in time for the Congregational Meeting, please submit to Dawn by Thursday, January 10th. Thank you!

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-- Christian Ed., Phillip Hopkins- F&M, chair, Doug Quinn- F&M, Patti Smith- N&M, co-chair, Pastor Sara Hodsden,
Donna Myers—Treasurer



In Loving Memory
of our friend
Harold Behnken

APRIL 1988

He is Risen
Matt 28.6

MARDI GRAS FUN!

About 35 children of all ages enjoyed a lasagna potluck and fun and games on the Tuesday evening before Lent began. Pictured here are some of the events.



Marge Morris and Harold Behnken reigned as King and Queen of the Mardi Gras. Here they pass out favors to their "subjects."

January 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Office Closed 	2
3 Worship @ 10 Adult Sunday School 10:45-11:30	4 LW Preschool back in session HDM @ 12 p.m.	5	6 Epiphany Home Blessings	7 Epiphany Home Blessings	8	9
10 Worship @ 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:45-11:30	11 HDM @ 12 p.m. Prayer group @ 1 p.m. via zoom	12	13 Christ Meal @ 5	14	15	16
17 Worship @ 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:45-11:30 Congregational meeting @ 11:30 a.m.	18 MLK LW Preschool-No School HDM @ 12 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship @ 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:45-11:30	25 HDM @ 12 p.m. Prayer Group @ 1 p.m. via zoom	26	27 Christ meal @ 5	28	29	30
31 Worship @ 10 Adult Sunday School 10:45-11:30						