

A stylized graphic of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a yellow background. The steeple is composed of purple and blue shapes.

Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church

May 2021

A Message From Your Pastor Rev. Sara Hodsden

Every Saturday night, I listen to a sermon preached by a Scottish pastor I met four years ago. On March 13th, she began her sermon by showing what her husband had given her for Mother's Day. In the UK and Ireland, Mother's Day is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, rather than the second Sunday of May. This usually falls sometime in March, while we are still experiencing cold and snow.. I always associate Mother's Day with spring and flowers!

This got me wondering about the history of Mother's Day in the UK. As I said, it is always the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Also unlike our Mother's Day, they have been observing what they call "Mothering Sunday" since the 1600's. The original intent of Mothering Sunday was for Christians to visit their "mother church" for worship. Even those who were servants would have the day off to go and worship where they were baptized. Over time, Mothering Sunday came to include the celebration of mothers.

I love celebrating my mother and grandmothers on Mother's Day, but the idea of also celebrating the Church as our spiritual mother is worth taking a look at. St. Cyprian wrote "No one can have God as Father who does not have the church as Mother." The function of the Church is to nurture and guide our faith, just as a good mother nurtures and guides her children.

A recent poll shows that 67% of people consider themselves to be "very" or "moderately religious". The same poll shows that 54% of people "seldom" or "never attend religious services." Church participation has now become something one might add-on in the midst of other religious choices. But for almost 2000 years, Christians never would have dreamed one would attempt to have a relationship with God without involving the Church. It would be like trying to be born without having a mother.

Many would point to the individualistic nature of our culture and say this is the cause. We would do well to admit that although individualism may be a reason, sometimes the Church drives people away through its bad behavior. We can't, by ourselves, change the individualism factor. We can, however, pray for forgiveness for past hurts we've caused, and for God to give us a spirit of nurture and loving-kindness--for God to transform the Church into a place which radiates with not only the Father's love, but a mother's love.

Thanks be to God to the mothers in our lives who blessed us. Thanks be to God for Mother Church, who taught us the faith. Thanks be to God, who gives us the gift of mothering believers. May we bear this responsibility with joy and enthusiasm!



GOD BLESS
Mothers

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Happy Mother's Day

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." PROVERBS 31:25-26



The wide spectrum of mothering

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child this year - we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains - we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment - we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms - we need you

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children - we celebrate with you

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children - we sit with you

To those who lost their mothers this year - we grieve with you

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother - we acknowledge your experience

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood - we are better for having you in our midst

To those who have aborted children - we remember them and you on this day

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children - we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be

To those who step-parent - we walk with you on these complex paths

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be - we grieve with you

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year - we grieve and rejoice with you

To those who placed children up for adoption - we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising -we anticipate with you

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

By Amy Young (<http://messymiddle.com>)



PRAYERS

Praises

Prayer Group Monday

May 10th & 24th 1:00 p.m.

In the Parlor

Remembering Aschsah (Judges 1:12-15) why she is a good example of prayer (continued from April)

- iii. Aschsah was a good example because *she knew it was her father she asked.*
- iv. Aschsah was a good example because *she went humbly, yet eagerly.*
- v. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *her father asked her what she wanted.* God will ask us the same thing and we should know what we want.
- vi. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *she shows that we should actually ask for what we want before God.* It is a pleasure for God to hear you ask.
- vii. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *of what she simply prayed.* Her prayer was, "**give me a blessing.**"
- viii. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *she mingled gratitude with her petition (you have given me land in the South).*
- ix. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *she used past blessing as a reason to ask for more.*
- x. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *she realized that what she had been given before was of no use without continual springs of water.* "What is the use of the hearers if there be not the power of the Holy Spirit going with the Word to bless them? Give me springs of water." (Spurgeon)
- xi. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *her father gave her what she asked.*
- xii. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *her father gave to her in large measure.*
- xiii. Aschsah's prayer was a good example because *her father was not critical of the request in the slightest way.*

We are always looking for better ways to pray. Perhaps Aschsah has touched your prayer life and renewed it! And our prayer Group will meet May 10 and May 24, at 1:00 at the Church!

Please join us, we need more pray-ers! Or put your prayer request in one of the Prayer Boxes in the Parlor or Fellowship Hall and we will add it to our prayer time.



SPECIAL NOTE from the MUSIC PROGRAM and FPC 'family'

A heartfelt THANK YOU and BEST WISHES to our very talented and much-loved graduating organist, MATTHEW DION!! Matthew came to us in the Fall of 2019 as a Junior in the Oberlin Conservatory, and will graduate from the same on May 14th of this year. In the Fall, he will be attending graduate school in Houston, Texas at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music, where he will pursue a Master's Degree in Sacred Music, with a major concentration in Organ. Matthew's last Sunday with us will be May 9.

On May 2nd, fittingly, Matthew will be the featured performer for the final-of-the-year "Music Under the Steeple" concert, a series which he developed in his first year with us, and for which he has provided a number of outstanding musical artists, both student and faculty. The Sunday, May 2nd concert at 3 pm will be virtual, as have been all the concerts during the pandemic. However, barring any unforeseen circumstances, it will also be open to a limited number of in-person audience members, on a by-reservation-only admission. All COVID protocols will be strictly followed for this concert, including the wearing of masks and social-distancing of attendees, which must be limited to 50 people as permitted in our particular space and situation.

(Registration information is available in separate notice in Steeple Notes.)

This concert will also recognize and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the building and installation of the organ and the Dedication Concert on May 4, 1981.

Much appreciation goes to Matthew for spearheading the recently completed project to have the organ thoroughly cleaned and re-tuned by professional organ curators in order to be 'fit' for another 40 years-plus of service!!

THANK YOU Matthew, for your time with us ... it's been all too brief, but definitely a blessing, rewarding, and unforgettable!!! We wish you the very best in the future, as you pursue your graduate studies...and beyond! We will eagerly await your return 'visits' when possible!!! We'll keep the organ 'ready and waiting' for you! You have been....and continue to bea true 'gem!'

Little Wonders Preschool

Last day of School May 26th, graduation will be held the next day, May 27th.

A morning and afternoon graduation ceremony will take place in the Sanctuary.

Easter fun, learning and fun activities

Hide the chick
Easter game.
Can they sink the
Easter eggs??



Snack time is always a fun time, especially
on "P" day. IT's Pizza and Pajama day!



Raising ladybug larvae!

The students get to watch it
grow!



What's Happening



Final concert for the season.

Music Under the Steeple

Sunday May 2, 3:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary. Reservations Required.

(R.S.V.P online)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949AEA72AABF58-music1>



Voting will be held Tuesday

May 4, 5 a.m.—7 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall



*Church Office will be Closed
Monday May 31st in observation
of Memorial day.*

Monday May 31, 2021



Christ community meal

ALL are Welcome.

Monday Lunch @ 12 p.m.

*Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the
month pick up/ drive thru meal*

May 14th and May 28th.

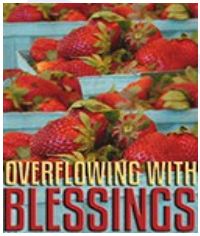
@ 5:00 p.m.

Sunday May 23

Wear Red to celebrate the Holy Spirit!



Christ Community Meals



*Thank you for all you have
done for our community!*

**You are a true
Huron
Hometown
Hero!**

*On behalf of the Huron Chamber of
Commerce, City of Huron, Huron
Township, and the following sponsors...*

*Huron Pizza House
Dee & Tom Hartley
Real Bold Hats
Huron Domino's Pizza*



HURON HOMETOWN HERO

*In recognition of your going
over and above to serve our
community during 2020!*

THANK YOU!

CITY OF
HURON
A GREAT LAKE PLACE

HURON
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HURON
TOWNSHIP



5/3—Margaret Swords

5/4—Carolyn Culbertson

5/8—Alice Roehrs

5/11—Tamara Boos

5/12—Becky Koenig

5/13—Sharon Carnal and Lisa Cook

5/16—Harper Hagy

5/19— Bob Muntz

5/20—Joel Hagy, Betsy Luipold and Stephanie Schippel

5/21—Lee Marsh

5/22—Ann Pullano

5/23—Jeanne Schafer

5/29—Tom Kirby

5/30—John Bickell

5/31—Genette Solomon



Prayer Calendar for the Churches of Huron

5/2—Christ Episcopal Church : Rev. Mike Floyd

5/9—Salvation Army

5/16—St. Peter Catholic Church

Father Jeff McBeth

5/23—Huron United Methodist Church

Pastor Pamela Sayre

5/30—Zion Lutheran Church

Pastor Kristine Schroeder

Session May 12th @ 7 p.m.

Session Members:

Pastor Sara Hodsden Marcia Arthur Clerk of Session

Phillip Hopkins F&M Chair Doug Quinn F & M Sarah Blakeman N&M, Nominating Co-Chair



Carolyn Culbertson Nominating Co-Chair Ellen Drumm N&M

Cynthia Brown-Mathews G & P & Worship Francesca Lendrum Stewardship

Marcie Muntz Christian Education Chuck Kaman Christian Education Chair

May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship @ 10 Music Under the Steeple @ 3	3 HDM @ 12	4 Voting 6a-7p 	5	6	7	8
9 Worship @ 10	10 HDM @ 12 Prayer group @ 1 	11	12 Session @ 7 p.m. Christ Meal @ 5 p.m.	13	14	15
16 Worship @ 10	17 HDM @ 12	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship @ 10 Pentecost 	24 HDM @ 12 Prayer group @ 1 	25 Steeple Notes Due	26 Little Wonders Last Day Christ Meal @ 5 p.m.	27 Little Wonders Graduation Ceremony 	28	29
30 Worship @ 10	31 HDM @ 12 Memorial Day 					