



# Steeple Notes

***18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." --***

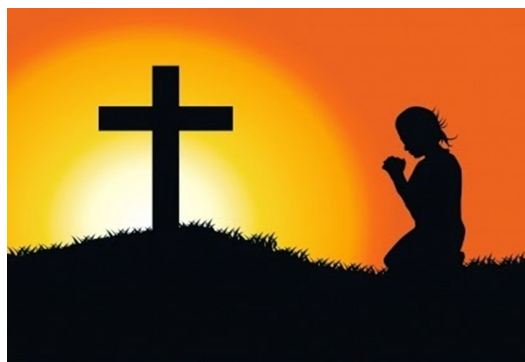
*Matthew 28:18-20*

Making disciples, and baptizing them: That's the task Jesus gives to his followers just before his ascension. If one is a follower of Christ, then one must be in the business of baptizing and disciple-making. One of the ways the modern church has engaged in baptizing and disciple-making is through Sunday School. In fact, Sunday School programs have been such a part of the American church that we might think that "Sunday School" always existed. In fact, the Sunday School movement has only been a part of the Christian church for about 220 years. The Sunday School movement began in England in 1790. A writer named Robert Raikes was visiting a friend, and observed several small children cussing, fighting, and gambling. He learned that the children were child laborers, meaning that they worked long shifts six days a week, and were not enrolled in school. A woman told him that what he observed that evening was nothing. When the children had the whole day off, they really caused trouble. Raikes was a Christian, and he wondered what he could do for the children. As a writer and a newspaper publisher, he knew the benefits of literacy. As a Christian, he knew the benefit of being able to read the Bible. He put two and two together and founded a "Sunday School". The children would learn to read and write, they would learn the stories of Scripture, and they would attend worship service. Three years after the program started, the area manufacturers claimed to see a difference in the behavior of the children: "They have been transformed from the shape of wolves and tigers to that of men," one would write. The Sunday School movement spread throughout England, and then to our United States. As time went on, child labor was outlawed and public education became the norm. It was then that Sunday School became what most of us came to know as children. It was an educational setting for faith instruction. Soon, churches transitioned from providing literacy education to providing sports and social activities. This is when the YMCA and the YWCA were formed. Christian Education programs have changed with the times, and it seems that today we are seeing huge cultural changes that impact the way churches must think about Christian Education. It seems that the world is offering children everything the church used to offer them--except for the one thing they need the most, Jesus. Over the past year, the Christian Education Committee has been trying to imagine what a Christian Education program might be in our modern times. How can we best share the Good News of Jesus Christ with families today? A look at the statistics is pretty grim. You may have seen the headlines that for the first time in Pew Research history, less than 50 percent of Americans belong to a church. The younger the age demographic, the less likely it is that the individual will be a member of a church. In fact, only six percent of Generation Z, and eight percent of millennials would call themselves mainline Protestant. 50 percent of Generation Z have never attended church. Ever. And this is the generation that is starting to have children. So how can we reach out to people in our community who have never been to church before? The days of "If we build it, they will come," are over. We need to be intentional in the way we reach out to our surrounding community. At the same time, our Huron community's fastest growing population is retired people, many of whom would like an outlet where they can participate in working with younger people (it keeps one young!). The CE Committee, and the Session approved the creation of the position "Children's Ministry Coordinator." This individual will be a bridge-builder. They will not be a traditional Christian Education Director. They most likely will not be teaching Sunday School themselves. Instead, their job will be to connect the very talented people of our church with opportunities to serve, and to provide the resources needed to engage with children and families in our community. They will help us to find new and exciting ways to reach out to younger generations that don't darken the door of a church building on Sundays. I commend the CE Committee and the Session for taking this bold and creative step. We must find new ways of outreach in order to continue making disciples. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please contact any of the search committee members, which includes Chuck Kaman, Carolyn Culbertson, and Marcie Muntz.

# Thought to ponder...(Pray)

Do you ever wonder if prayer is enough? Are there times when you feel so surrounded or overwhelmed by negative news or circumstances in your life, it feels like God is not answering? It feels to you like prayer just isn't working. From our limited earthly perspective, it can certainly seem that way sometimes. Yet God is in control and His plans are great (Proverbs 19:21). He calls us to trust Him and to do our part for His glory. When we pray, we should center our longings and petitions as Jesus did: "Father, Your will be done" (Matthew 6:9-10). By putting your trust in Him, He will walk beside you, and you can bear witness to His glory. God never stops hearing us, so let's keep praying!

John Bolthouse, except from "Surrounded"



# Session News

Here are some highlights from the most recent Session meeting:

The PPP loan was forgiven. Special thanks to our treasurer, Donna Myers, for her bookkeeping which enabled us to have this loan forgiven.

Session approved Covid guidelines for worship and church use.

Session approved a subcommittee to search for a Children's Ministry Coordinator.

**There will be no Session meeting in July.**



## *Session Members*

Pastor Sara Hodsden...Marcia Arthur—Clerk of Session....Phillip Hopkins—F& M....Doug Quinn—F&M...

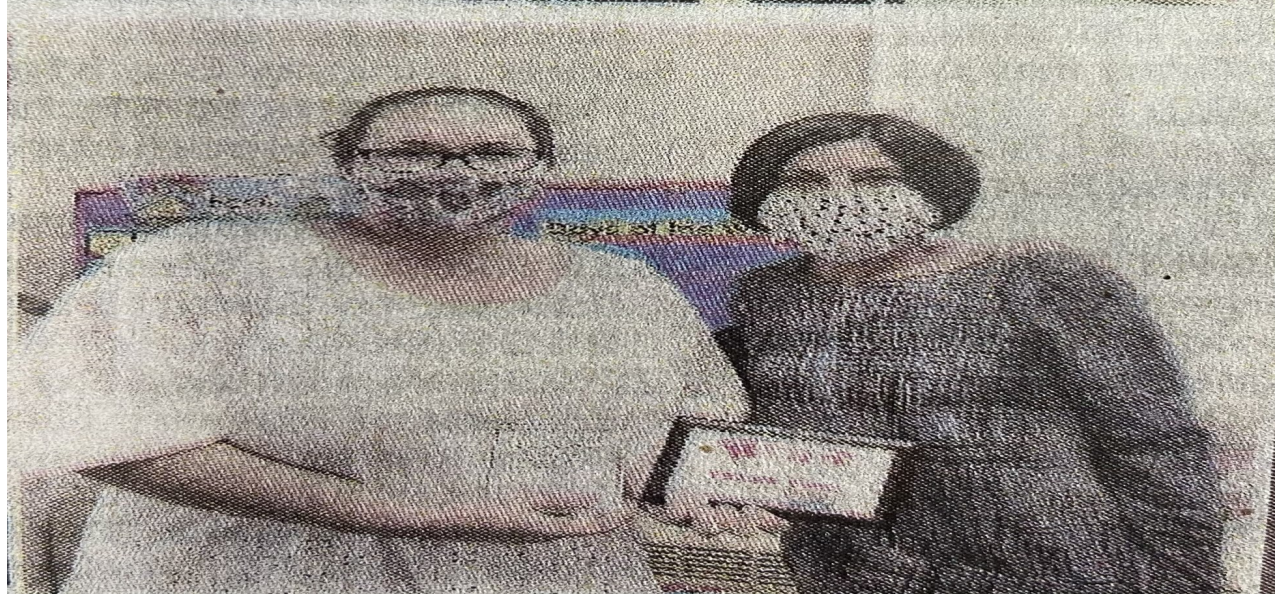
Chuck Kaman—Personell, Christian Education.....Francesca Lendrum—Stewardship .....Cynthia Brown Mathews—PW...

Sarah Blkeman...N&M ...Marcie Muntz—PW, Christian Education...

# Honored and Blessed

Provided photos/HURON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Pictured are the recipients of the first Huron Hometown Heroes, local community members who went above and beyond caring for others during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# What's Happening

Join us for coffee hour every Sunday after worship.



Quilting group every Thursday @ 9 a.m.

They would love for you to join them, don't know how to quilt, they will teach you!



Bell Choir Thursday's @ 2 p.m.



Steeple Notes due July 26th

The Church office will be closed Monday

**CLOSED**



Christ Community meal.

Second and fourth Wednesday of the Month.

Free Community Dinner



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**Our Olympics VBS time is coming quickly!**

**The dates are August 3-5, from 9:30-11:30.**

**We will be co-hosting VBS with First United Methodist.**

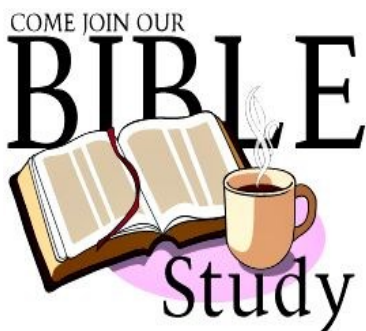
**All events will be held at Bettchter Park on their campus.**



## RALLY DAY IS COMING BACK!

Mark your calendars for September 12th, as we will be having a very special worship service in thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness through the pandemic.

We are looking forward to highlighting the ministries of the church, and kickstarting a programming year.



Women's evening Bible study for the fall-

Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Order your book with that title from Amazon now!

See you in September.

# Save the Date

## PW Breakfast

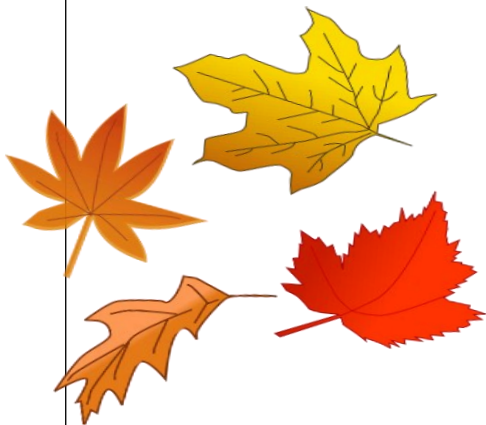


Presbyterian Women will gather for breakfast on **Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>** at **9 am** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Join us for to hear about upcoming PW events. *All women (members or not) are welcome.*

*Thank you!*

Save your stuff. The Rummage Sale is back!




## Fall Rummage Sale

The Presbyterian Women are happy to announce that we will have our Fall Rummage Sale on **Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** from **9 am to 1 pm** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

*Please mark your calendar. Thank you!*

# July 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Quilting Group 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	2	3
4 Worship @ 10 a.m. Coffee hour after worship	5 Community Lunch 12 p.m. Office Closed	6	7	8 Quilting Group 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	9	10
 11 Worship @ 10 a.m. Coffee hour after worship	12 Community Lunch 12 p.m.	13	14 Christ Meal 5 p.m.	15 Quilting Group 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	16	17
18 Worship @ 10 a.m. Coffee hour after worship	19 Community Lunch 12 p.m.	20	21	22 Quilting Group 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	23	24
25 Worship @ 10 a.m. Coffee hour after worship	26 Community Lunch 12 p.m. Steeple Notes due	27	28 Christ Meal 5 p.m.	29 Quilting Group 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	30	31