

Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Rev. Sara Hodsden

June 2021

A Message from your Pastor

On Wednesday, May 19th, Corey Kluber pitched a no-hitter. The same Corey Kluber who was the two-time Cy Young winning Cleveland pitching ace for several years in a row. I always used to pay close attention to games when Corey Kluber was pitching, because I believed that he could toss a no-hitter. The day we moved Thomas to college, August 23rd, 2017, I went to the Indians' game that night, because Corey Kluber was pitching. Incidentally, that was the last game the Indians lost prior to their 22 game winning streak.

Kluber was traded to the Texas Rangers before the 2020 season. He only pitched one inning, and was taken out of the game with a torn muscle near his shoulder. It ended his season. He became a free agent, and was signed to an audition with the Yankees before spring training this year.

He had a rocky April this year. His father, Jim Kluber, says that it seemed like his son had lost his well-known focus. The senior Kluber reminded his son of the book *The Mental ABC's of Pitching*, which teaches the most important pitch of the game is the next pitch, no matter what has taken place on the field prior.

We have a human tendency to beat ourselves up over things we have said or done in the past. It's not unlike a baseball pitcher being rattled by a player hitting a home run, or an error on the field. Instead of focusing on what is going on in the present, we become bogged down with the past. It happens to individuals, it happens to families, it happens to churches.

In Scripture, the Israelites went through a period of exile which was brought on by their own idolatry and faithlessness. They were forced to leave the Promised Land they had inhabited and ruled over for centuries, and were made subjects of the Babylonian rulers. In exile, many lamented their sins, and wondered whether God had abandoned them.

The prophet Isaiah spoke to them to let them know that what had happened in the past was forgiven, gone, and forgotten. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

God is always doing a new thing. Regardless of our past, through the grace of God given us in Christ Jesus, he is always doing a new thing. The most important thing you are doing is whatever you are doing right now. Let's focus our eyes on the future, not the past, and let God do a new thing in us!



A message from Our Music director

Ah! How very *different* not to have Matthew at the organ and piano for worship services! We shall certainly miss him!! BUT... we know that he is now is a *Happy Graduate* from the Oberlin Conservatory (May 14th), and looking forward to exciting times ahead as he moves to Houston in the Fall to pursue his Master's Degree!! We are already discussing a potential concert from him on one of his journeys 'back East' in the future!! (Remember that our dear *Mitch Miller* has returned upon two separate occasions....so far! AND, FYI: further down, I'm including an *update note from Mitch* and the Oberlin 'family' of organistsJ)

You may notice that Matthew's harpsichord (given him by an Oberlin student just before his arrival to FPC) which sat in front, then the back of the sanctuary, is no longer here. Due to COVID, of course, we were never able to get it repaired and in condition for Matthew to use for services or concerts. On Thursday May 13th, Matthew and his parents (they were in Ohio for graduation) came by the church to load it into a van to take back to their home in Massachusetts, where it will join several other of Matthew's instruments! (His dad joked that they're running out of room for *people!!* J His mom, a singer and artist, is looking forward to getting it repaired and to painting it decoratively!!)

While here, his parents expressed to me (and wanted me to share) their deepest appreciation for this congregation providing such a wonderful spiritual AND musical "home" for Matthew, and for being so generous, not only with hospitality, but also with the wonderful monetary gift given him upon his departure. And ...they both expressed what a BEAUTIFUL church building it was and a 'lovely town!! Matthew, also, expressed his DEEPEST appreciation for the generous gift and the wonderful congregational "home!" After he picked up his remaining 'belongings' from the choir room, he said he felt like he needed to play that wonderful instrument one more time J, so John and I were treated to a marvelous two-selection 'concert' just before he left. He also indicated his pride in joining the group of organists who have had the great pleasure of playing this outstanding instrument and serving this wonderful congregation! "Kudos to ALL" was his message !!

I'd like to offer my personal appreciation for your generosity in providing him with a 'warm home' and a most generous "graduation/departure" gift!! We'll stay in touch with Matthew and share updates.... And...BRAVO to all!!

AND, what a wonderful day it was, on May 2nd, to have Matthew play for the "Music Under the Steeple" concert (still available on FPC Facebook page), celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the organ installation, and to have Pastor *emeritus*, George Bell and two of his children (Jan and Joe) here...at which time George read his specially written poem (*The Littlest Pipe*) for the occasion! (Anyone who would like a copy of the poem, contact Jann or the church office J).

UPDATE: For those who know/remember Mitch, our previous Oberlin organist who was with us for five years, I am delighted to report that he has been selected as *one of twelve finalist* in the prestigious 2021 International St. Albans Organ Competition (England) ! He joins finalists from USA, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania, and Germany!!! Quite an honor for 'our' Mitch!!

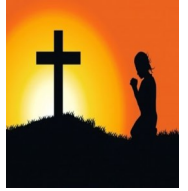
ADDITIONALLY, FYT: We regret that Carol Mason will be unable to join us as pianist/organist for the summer months, due to family situations. Fortunately, Jane LaFace will be filling in for some of the time as organist, but we always welcome musicians who are willing to sing or play (any instrument) for the *special music* each Sunday. If YOU are so inclined, or know someone who might be available for one or more Sundays, *please* let Jann know! We'd love to welcome ANY of you/them to our summer music program! It is our hope that the Chancel Choir will be able to reconvene for the fall!! The "Summer Bells" (handbell choir) will start rehearsing soon and hopefully will be able to provide special music during the summer!

And finally, THANK YOU all for your continued support of our music program, and for those who have "braved" the COVID protocols and provided music for our Sunday worship services. We are ALL eager to resume our regular choir, and pray for a new organist/accompanist for the fall from Oberlin!! We're working toward that goal and appreciate any assistance from the congregation!!

Let Music Live!

Jann and Music Program

Prayers



Prayer Group will be held Monday June 7th & Monday June 21st at 1:00 p.m.

Please join us on those days, and don't forget to submit your prayer requests. Carolyn Culbertson, Missy Sprankel, Rachel Pratt, Tami Boos, Susan Martter, JoAnna Work, Margaret Swords and Pastor Sara Hodsden

“We often pray best when we stammer and stutter, and we pray worst when words come rolling like a torrent, one after another. God is not moved by words; they are but a noise to Him.” Charles H Spurgeon

As Charles Spurgeon says stammering and stuttering gets God's attention. If your heart is for prayer, it matters not what words are spoken if they are sincere and within His will. We just need to come before God with our whole hearts, as honestly and consistently as we can. In Revelation, John sees twenty-four elders holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. These bowls once full will be poured out at the end of time in a great “Amen!” Isn't it awesome that every true prayer we ever prayed is remembered and cherished by God, stored up in one of those golden bowls, awaiting their fulfillment. On that final day all our prayers will be answered, all sorrows and tears will be ended. But for now, Prayer is our powerful tool to bring about His kingdom and power on earth. Let us pray....

Prayer Calendar for the Churches of Huron

6/6—First Presbyterian Church

6/13— Christ Episcopal Church

6/20-Salvation Army

6/27— St. Peter Catholic Church

June Happenings

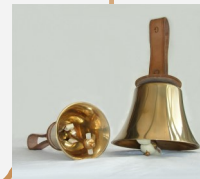


Quilters

Join the quilting group

Thursday's at 9 a.m.

**If you don't know how
to quilt they would love
to teach you!**



Bell Choir is back!

Starting Thursday June 3rd at 2

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday June 17th

1 p.m.-6 p.m.



**American
Red Cross**



Christ Community Meal

Monday's—Lunch @ 12 p.m.

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month.

June 9th @ 5 p.m.

June 23rd @ 5 p.m.

Session

Wednesday June 9th at 7 p.m.

Session Members: Pastor Sara Hodsdon Marcia Arthur—Clerk of Session Phillip Hopkins—F & M Chair

Sarah Blakeman—N&M/ nominating Co-chair Ellen Drumm— N&M Doug Quinn—F&M Cynthia Brown-Mathews—G&P Worship

Francesca Lendrum—Stewardship, F&M

Marcie Muntz—Christian Education Chuck Kaman—Christian Education, Personal

what's Happening

Summer Office Hours

Monday—Wednesday 8:30a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Thursday 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Friday—Closed

Dawn will be on Vacation June 13th-17th.

There will be a Substitute Secretary for those days.

Pastor Sara will be out of the office

June 25th– July 9th

Happy Birthday

6/1—Thomas Williamson

6/2—Carl Kovacs

6/4—Chuck Kaman

6/8—Cindy Kaman

6/12—June Hanes

6/14—Ella Ransom

6/16—Christopher Asher

6/17—Marcia Arthur

6/18—Joanna Work

6/19—Leisa Nikolajevs

6/20—George Bell, Marc Martter

6/23—Barbara Haase

6/24—Rick Mathews

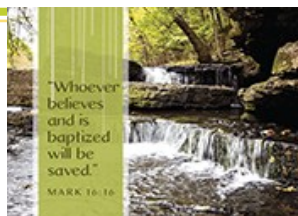
6/27—Lydia Mischler, Patsy Subcasky

6/28—Wilson Pullano



Baptism Celebration!

Jack Manning Hoover, the son of Jane and Casey Hoover, will be baptized during the June 13th worship service. Join us as we celebrate this sacrament.



Graduate Recognition

On Sunday, June 6th, we will recognize the members and friends of FPC Huron who have graduated from high school, college, or graduate school. If you have someone to celebrate, please contact Dawn in the church office with their name, their school, their major, their future plans, and if they are able to attend the service.

Olympic VBS



The United Methodist Church is hosting our VBS this year. We will have an Olympic theme. More information will be passed along as plans are solidified.



Celebrating Our Graduates

Little Wonders Preschool

Schools out for summer!!

They have been busy little bees the whole month of may. Preparing for the last day of school, they put together a Mothers day gift, Fathers day gift and prepared for graduation, all while learning their language arts and math. They are definitely ready for their summer break!

We pray for our new preschool graduates as they move onto Kindergarten, we wish them all the very best !

As always we continue to pray for all of our Little Wonders children and all the children around the world. May God's Love continue to follow and guide them everyday!



Last Day Fun in the Sun



Congratulations Graduation Day!



Our Little graduates, onto Kindergarten;

Iris Conley, Mason Malone, Myla Henney, Evie Craig, Bryson Krupp, Kasey Clayman, Maverick Lozano, Sullivan Bork, Hudson Priestas, Colton Ross, Otis Mazur, Sawyer Halsey, and Vivian Warren.

Congratulations, our prayers are with you all!



June 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3 Quilters 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	4	5
6 Worship 10 a.m.	7 Prayer Group 1 p.m. Christ Meal 12 p.m.	8	9 Christ Meal 5 p.m. Session 7 p.m.	10 Quilters 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	11	12
13 Worship 10 a.m.	14 Christ Meal 12 p.m.	15 Council Town Hall Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Quilters 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m. Red Cross 1 p.m.	18	19
20 Worship 10 a.m.	21 Prayer Group 1 p.m. Christ Meal 12 p.m.	22	23	24 Quilters 9 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m.	25	26
27 Worship 10 a.m.	28 Christ Meal 12 p.m.	29	30			