



Steeple Notes



A Message from your Pastor

Finally, the Summer Olympics have begun!

I've always enjoyed the Olympic games. I enjoy watching athletes compete in sports which I do not have the opportunity to see on a regular basis such as archery, dressage, diving, shot-put and discus.

This year, our Vacation Bible School program theme is the Olympics. It was our original theme last summer, before Covid interrupted both the Olympics and VBS. There will be games, crafts, medals, celebrations, songs, and of course, Bible stories. The apostle Paul was a city boy. In ancient cities, there were often athletic events and contests. Paul would have been familiar with running, jumping, discus throwing, chariot racing, and wrestling. Just as Jesus, whose roots were more rural, used agricultural metaphors to teach the Gospel, Paul used athletic metaphors to explain faith. For Paul, our faith was like a race we must train for and persevere in, like marathon runners. We should keep our eyes on the prize set before us, freeing ourselves of the weight of sin, and moving forward in faith.

While we are watching the Olympic games, the television hosts will often break away to do a feature on an athlete, focusing on ways he or she had to overcome obstacles in order to reach the top of the game. As I watch these vignettes, I am reminded of Paul's writings; our faith is, indeed, like training for a marathon. We just won't wake up one morning and run 26.2 miles. We must train. There will be exhaustion from sorrow at the shape of the world around us, muscle aches from engaging in ministries we haven't engaged in before, headaches from the stress of doing a new thing, being soaked and miserable when the climate doesn't cooperate with our training, and frustration when only a few ears are open to hear the Gospel. Our faith is a marathon, not a sprint.

The good news is that we don't have to run a marathon on our first try. We are all in training together, and powered by the Holy Spirit. When we slip up, when we fail, when it becomes too challenging, or when the obstacles seem too high, we have one another to lean on, and most importantly, we have the Holy Spirit empowering us to keep moving.

Faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Let us keep our eyes on the prize as we run the race. We will finish it, with God's help, and nothing in our lives will be more rewarding than this marathon of faith we run together.

Thank you

On behalf of myself, James, Thomas, and all of our family, I would like to thank the members and staff for the beautiful flowers, cards, text messages and mementos you have blessed us with upon my mother's death. I would also like to thank you for the kindness and patience afforded to me at this very difficult moment. I loved my mom very much, and it was her faith that shaped mine. One of her wishes was to come and meet all of you, which due to her illness and Covid we were unable to make happen. Nevertheless, she appreciated the support, love, prayers, and cards she received in this past year. Thank you again, for your love and kindness.

Sincerely, Pastor Sara

Prayer Corner

From Prayer Group:

“And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken.” Samuel 7:25



“Oh,’ you say, ‘that seems rather strange, asking God for things he’s promised.’ Well, it may seem strange to you, but fathers can make promises to their children, and they don’t mind when their children come back and remind them of the promise. In fact, I think it’s a refrain you hear often from a child’s voice, even as you’re passing in the street: ‘But Daddy, you promised! But you promised!’

“That’s what David is saying: ‘Father, I have found courage to pray this prayer because You promised—not because I think it’s a bright idea, not because it’s an outlandish concept, but because You made this promise.’ You see, courageous praying on our part is not on the basis of the extent of our faith but is on the foundation of God’s promises.”

Commentary from the sermon “Do as You Have Spoken” by Alistair Begg



Prayer meetings August 9th & 23rd

Have a prayer request? Join us for prayer group, Drop of your prayer request in the prayer box, call or email the Church. So many ways to pray, so many ways to allow us to pray for you or your loved one!



For the Church’s of Huron:

8/1– Salvation Army

8/8—St. Peter Catholic Church—Father Jeff McBeth

8/15– United Methodist Church - Pastor Pamela Sayre

8/22– Zion Lutheran Church—Pastor Kristine Schroeder

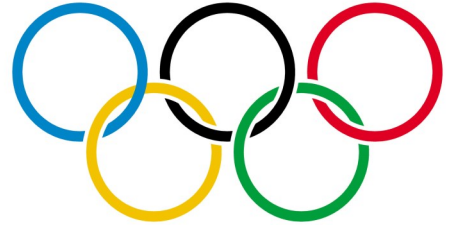
8/29– First Presbyterain Church—Pastor Sara Hodsdon

Looking ahead

VBS Kids Olympics

August 3-5 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

The website to signup is: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/huronvbs>



Save the Dates:



Huron School Soccer —CAR WASH

- **Boys Soccer Team—Saturday August 7th, 9a.m.-12p.m.**
- **Girls Soccer Team—Saturday August 14th , 9a.m. -1p.m.**



Little Wonders Corner

Summer is flying by, in another month school will be back in session. As we enjoy the rest of our summer, our teachers prepare for the 2021-2022 School Year.

They did an amazing job during the pandemic, and they as well as our kids are ready to go back to a normal school year!

**** Parent Meeting will be held
Thursday August 26th 6:30 p.m.,
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**** Open House will be Tuesday
August 31st 5 p.m.—6:45 p.m.**



**MARK THIS ON YOUR
CALENDAR**

PW Breakfast

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

Join us to hear about upcoming PW events.

Fall Rummage Sale

The Presbyterian Women are happy
to announce that we will have our Fall
Rummage Sale

**Oct. 9th from
9 am to 1 pm** in the
Fellowship Hall.

Please mark your calendar. Thank you!



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Blood Drive

**Tuesday September 7th
1p.m.—6p.m.**

The link to register is below



redcrossblood.org/northernohio

Whats Happening

Join us for Coffee Hour every Sunday after Worship.



Bell Choir
Thursday's
@ 2 p.m.



Quilting Group

Thursday's at 9 a.m. They would love for you to join them. Don't know how to quilt, they would love to teach you, stop in Thursday 9a.m.-2p.m in the Fellowship Hall.



Christ Community Meals

Lunch Every Monday @ 12p.m.

Dinner 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month, August 11th & 25th @ 5p.m.



Bible Study

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

Did you ever wonder how God can use really bad girls to do his work here on earth? So do I. The sisters in Christ that meet every other Wednesday night will try to answer that question starting on September 15 at 6:00 in the youth room (upstairs). We will be meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month so as not to interfere with session meetings. Usually the lesson and discussion go about an hour but you never know what kind of interesting topics we'll end up discussing so we may go to 7:30.

Let me allay any concerns you may have. Anything said in the group does not go any farther than the group. You can contribute as little or as much as you'd like to. If you don't get the chapter read before the study, that's alright. If you don't have any opinion to add, that's alright. If you doze off during the dvd portion, that's alright-been there, done that. 😊

In a nutshell, this is a kind, compassionate group of women-not all Presbyterian(we love Kathy our Baptist!)-that want to learn more about the word of God.

Please come and try it. Wendy facetimes from Florida when she becomes a snowbird but there is no committment to show up

The book is available on amazon or other religious book sites or you may be able to get the book from the library-
Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Hope to see you in September. (Did you just sing that?)

Blessings,

Marcie Muntz



Music Corner

The Littlest Pipe

I am the littlest pipe in this organ's collection.
I live up in the heights where I am seldom visited.
It's the friendly middle notables who get most attention.
You know, the ones involved in leading hymns and folk tunes,
Those fluty soft funeral ones, the trumpets who attend weddings.

I'm speaking for other upper height pipes, you know!
We are like the little ones passed on the street, mostly not recognized,
Little possibilities, unrecognized, unknown, unappreciated!
Not like the massive tubes that rumble and rattle seats
I'm like a spark, able to start a musical fireworks!

I'm like a little drop of water in a lake or a grain of sand on a beach.
The great creators of music usually don't pay much attention to me,
Bach, Widor, Pachelbel and Franck, neglected me.
Handel came closest to using me to light up his messages.
I'm usually left out of those interweaving themes of classical fugues.

I can imagine my tiny pitch throbbing in the throat of a robin,
Or in the cry of a little kitten calling for its mother.
I'm a challenge to the sopranos in opera or choir!
It's up to the artist on the bench to spring us from sleep to life!
Hit "my" key and I sound off! Pure! Proud! Joyful!

An organ has a life, you know, complex and sensitive like the human body!
Its keys activate sound-thoughts we pipes make,
One key, one pipe, or more keys, more pipes, chosen from hundreds,
Anxious, to send out the message in a composer's mind and soul,
As interpreted by the fingers and feet of the one in charge of the controls.

Forty years ago, Bruce and Shari put us into this instrument in this room;
Cabinet, keyboard, mechanical connections, wind chest, custom made pipes.
We came together to enrich the Huron community, this special church,
The fortunate people who have the chance to provide "instructions"
And those who get to listen to our many voices, in services and concerts.

Many choices were assembled for every artist who comes to me;
Two keyboards with their thirty-three white and twenty-three black keys!
Lowest, C note! Highest, G note! – ME!
My thirty peddles for the feet!
Sixteen stops that can change my sounds in a single beat!

I'm the littlest pipe, a tiny voice, here with 1,057 others.
Together we inspire some of the most passionate feelings!
Shake the rafters with joy and celebration!
Companion those with tears from a broken heart!
Accompany a choir or lead a room full of singers!
Even created miracles right inside your ears!

*George L. Bell
April 21, 2021*

Built by Bruce and Shari Shull in 1979-1981
(Opus 4) for
First Presbyterian Church
Huron, Ohio

after studying organ building at Oberlin
and organ structure in Europe.



Music Corner Continued



POEM by Rev. GEORGE BELL, *Pastor Emeritus*

The poem, “*The Littlest Pipe*,” included herein was written by George specifically for the May 2021 “Music Under the Steeple Concert” celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the building and installation of our very special sanctuary organ. Our most recent organist, Matthew Dion, was the primary organizer for the concert, and performed as the featured organist for the service. He was very interested in having George participate in some way, as he was the pastor at the time that the congregation voted to commission the building of the organ, and was influential in continuing the “Oberlin connection” with securing builders Bruce (and Shari) Shull, former Oberlin students. As George had written “*God’s Hum*” (copies of which hang beside the organ and in the choir room) for the initial Dedication Concert in May of 1981, we asked if he would also write a poem for the 40th Anniversary. Thanks to daughter Jan (and son Joe), George was able to attend the concert...in person... and read his poem during the concert program!

The event was not open to the public at that time, due to COVID restrictions, but as with our other concerts and services, it was taped and is available on our site. Several people had asked if there was a copy of the poem, so George graciously indicated that we could share it in *STEEPLE NOTES*. THANKS GEORGE!!!

FORMER ORGANIST ‘MITCH’ MILLER RECEIVES HIGH HONOR

As some of you heard announced in Worship Service, there is WONDERFUL news to share about our dear “Mitch.” Several months ago we had announced that he had become one of twelve finalists (from hundreds of international applicants) in the very prestigious *St. Alban’s International Organ Competition*. Due to COVID, the competition was held virtually, and fortunately was live-streamed internally from St. Alban’s in Great Britain. (Mitch was one of three organists from USA in the finals, and each finalist played a 40-minute program, three pre-determined selections, and the remaining ones of the organists’ choice.) on organs of their choice and availability.

On Friday July 16th, prizes were awarded, also live-streamed, and what JOY to witness that Mitch had received one of the three TOP PRIZES in the competition!! (Three equal prizes are awarded rather than a first, second, third place.) The award is for “overall performance and interpretation.” The other two top winners included a young lady from Lithuania and a young man from France. More information about this competition and festival, and it’s history can be located on their website. Just ‘google’ *St. Alban’s International Organ Competition*. Mitch will be coming state-side sometime late summer or early fall, so we hope he’ll be able to head our way, even briefly!!!