



Steeplenotes

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

225 Williams Street, Huron, Ohio 44839 (419) 433-5018

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St. Brigid's Cross by Rev. James Hodsden

Note: This month I wanted to share an article written by my husband, James, about one of the Celtic Saints we learned about as we traveled to Ireland last summer. —Rev. Sara Hodsden.

Irish or not, most of us know that we honor the Christian missionary, St. Patrick, on March 17. However, there is another Celtic saint whose celebration occurs on February 1. Her name is Brigid, and she is considered one of the greatest saints in the Celtic church.

She was born in the Fifth Century. Her father was a local chieftain named Dubtach. Her mother was a slave named Brocseach. Shortly before she was born, dad sold mom to a druid priest. Her mother was a Christian, and there is evidence that Brigid herself was baptized at an early age by St. Patrick. Living as a follower of Christ within a pagan household would certainly have been a challenge.

Around the age of ten, Brigid's father brought the girl back into his court, but Dubtach soon regretted it. Brigid, moved by Christian compassion, began giving away the chieftain's food and goods to the poor. The chieftain was so exasperated that he tried to marry Brigid at the age of fourteen to a local nobleman. Brigid, however, stubbornly refused and vowed to become a nun. Her father finally relented.

As with many of the Celtic saints, Brigid founded a Christian community. Celtic society and the Christian Church definitely allowed women more opportunities for leadership and service than the culture of the Roman Empire, but Brigid went well beyond her peers. She was a determined woman of energy, wisdom, faith, and love. The monastic community she founded in Kildare was made of both men and women, and she was the one in leadership. That rarely happened.

There is a legend that when she took the vows to become a nun, the Holy Spirit intervened, and the rite for the ordination of a bishop was read. When the error was noted, that a woman could not be a bishop, the presiding bishop declared, "No power have I in this matter. That dignity has been given by God unto Brigid, beyond every woman."

Over the years, Brigid has been associated with a cross that is woven from rushes. The story is that a local chieftain was delirious and dying, and his servants brought Brigid to comfort the old man. As she spoke, she shared the only comfort that she had. She told the story of Jesus, his life, his suffering, his death, and his resurrection. To illustrate the point, she picked up the rushes from the floor and began to weave a cross. Because of the cross of Christ, we need not be afraid.

If we live in Christ, we have works of service and love to be done. If we die in Christ, we have the blessing of eternal life. As Paul said, "For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

The old chieftain was so comforted that he became a Christian that day and was baptized shortly before he died. Some versions of the story suggest that this man was, in fact, Dubtach, her father. The gospel of Jesus Christ can inspire a woman to offer compassion to a man who rejected her and her mother and sold them both into slavery. Brigid was a woman of uncommon grace and forgiveness. Through God, she did amazing things. May it be said of us as well.

This is the Steeple...



As the kids like to say, we are lit!

While replacing our sanctuary roof, we discovered that we had to say goodbye to our steeple lights. Knowing that our lit steeple is a Huron landmark, we worked to install new lighting as fast as possible.

Thanks to our electrician, Graziano electric, the skies of Huron are graced, once again, with the illuminated steeple of First Presbyterian Church. In addition, we have LED lights, which shine more brightly, more efficiently, and last longer.

We are grateful to the people who gave to the building fund to make this project possible.

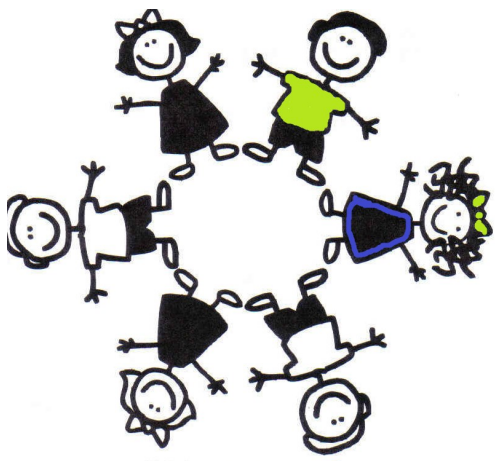


Fern Delamatre with John Glann

Thank You

We will miss our Fern. It was a joy to celebrate her life with her large family, her extensive network of friends, and her church community.

We are grateful to Jann Glann for pulling together a wonderful group of musicians. And thank you to the Nurture and Mission Committee, Presbyterian Women, and Bob Muntz for providing a hospitable and joyful atmosphere for everyone to remember and celebrate Fern.



Little Wonders Presbyterian Preschool

It's hard to believe, but Little Wonders is already preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. Some important dates coming up:

- February 25th : Registration for current and priority students
- March 4th: Open House.
- March 4th: Open registration

If you know any parents, guardians, our grandparents looking for an quality and affordable preschool option, send them our way!

What have our Little Wonders been doing lately?

The children gathered a collection of scarves, hats and mittens, which then was donated to Second Harvest food bank.

In the classroom, the students have been busy learning about space.

They look forward to "Big Play"

Tuesday in Little Wonders Chapel, they are learning the stories of Jesus.

They are holding their annual Valentine's Day party on February 14th.

Little Wonders will have Presidents ' Day off.



Our Little Wonders in Chapel, and learning imagining about space.



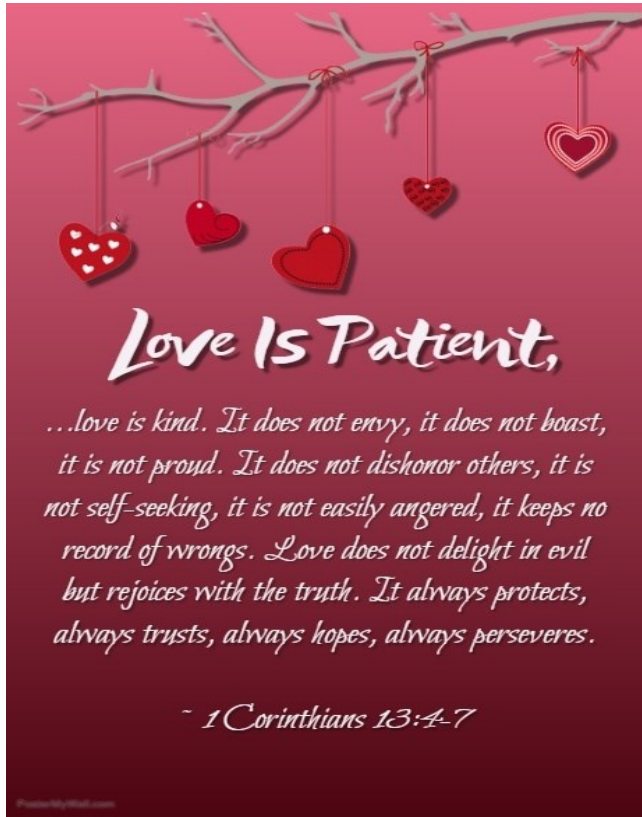
Prayer Group Update

Do you have a record of God's answered prayers in your life? You might want to journal your prayers and answers to read in the future and receive encouragement when you are in a situation where it seems God has abandoned you. Take a look back down the road. Has He ever abandoned you? The solutions and relief may not have come as quickly as we demanded, but God answered us, in His own time. Be faithful and pray!

Prayers are still praying, so send requests to the office, or to

Susanmarc@yahoo.com.

We are a small group but our prayers are heard as He promised!



Love Is Patient,

..love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love—and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, Too often we underestimate the power of touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

February

Liturgist Schedule

Date	Liturgist	Communion Set UP	Servers			
Feb 5	Jack Arthur	Janeane Hopkins	Janeane Hopkins	Phillip Hopkins	Rachel Pratt	Marcia Arthur
Feb 19	Rachel Pratt					
Feb 22	J Hopkins					
Feb 26	Ann Pullano					

2/1—Dan Robertson

2/8 — Lauren Mueller

2/10 — Thomas Work

2/14 — Doug Brown

2/18 — John Arthur

2/22 — Patti Smith, Dawn Fleming

2/25 —Debbie Schippel, Wittmer Symmonds, Ann Wright

2/26 — Jenny Hagy, Phillip Hopkins



**& Birthdays
Anniversaries**



- Lent begins on February 22nd with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.
- We will be having a special commissioning service for Pastor Sara on February 26th at 1:00 p.m. Come and celebrate with us!

News from Nurture and Mission

- We made Valentine's Day gifts for our homebound members. And sent Valentine's Day cards out on behalf of our congregation.
- Along with PW, we hosted the dinner after Fern DeLamatre's memorial service.
- On February 5th, join us for Valentine's Fellowship Sunday after worship.
- On February 26th, we are having a delicious supper to celebrate Pastor Sara's commissioning! Mark your Calendars!
- The Lent Soup and Study begins on Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m.
- It's not too early to mark your calendar for the Easter breakfast, Sunday, April 9th.



The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Tuesday, February 21st from 12p.m.—7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up at redcross.org



May 6th, 2023

Drop off begins May 1st at 2:00 p.m.

Scout Sunday

The Scout Sunday Celebration will be on Sunday, February 12th. The Christian Education Committee is pulling out all the stops this year! Following the "Messy Church" model, we will begin our celebration in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. with activities based on the theme "Called to Make a Difference," drawing from the call of the prophet Isaiah. Next, we will move to the sanctuary for worship and celebration and recognize our adult volunteers and any Scouting achievements from the past year. Finally, we will have a taco bar in Fellowship Hall to conclude our celebration.

The Christian Education Committee needs your help! We need 6-8 volunteers to help with activity tables (not all are artsy-craftsy), 4-5 to help with the taco bar set-up, and two people to act as "hosts" to greet folks at the door and let them know where they need to be. We also need a few people to set up for the event. A signup sheet is in the Narthex, or you can sign up online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949aea72aabf58-scout#/>

We also have a sign-up list to bring items for the taco bar. A signup sheet is in the narthex, or you can sign up online at: https://app.planhero.com/lite_gatherings/2202-scout-sunday-taco-bar

Thanks be to God for this ministry opportunity and thank you in advance for your participation and support.

