



# steeplenotes

**Worship**  
Every Sunday at 10:00  
a.m.

You can join us in person, or  
on Facebook at facebook.com/

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
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**March, 2023**



*A Celtic Lenten Journey By Rev. Sara Hodsden*

***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” --Colossians 3:16***

As many of you know, James and I went on a pilgrimage to Ireland and England last July and August. We had a fabulous time visiting sites of ancient and modern saints--from the home of CS Lewis and John Newton’s church in England to the holy island of Inis Oirr and the ancient monastery at the peak of Skellig Michael. Some sites were urban; some were up rugged paths and over churning waters of the ocean.

The trip was overwhelming. I still have not processed everything. But I experienced that I would love to share what I experienced. The best opportunity is through our Lenten Soup and Study, beginning on March 7th.

In the first week, we will have an overview of the sites James and I visited. I’ll share photographs and experiences that we had.

In the next three weeks, we will take an in-depth look at three Celtic Saints and their associated spiritual disciplines. First, we will look at St. Patrick and talk about prayer. Second, we will learn about St. Brendan and explore the “Wild Goose” spirituality concept. Finally, we will explore St. Columba and how his connection to God’s creation was a spiritual discipline.

My primary resource for the study is a book called “Restoring the Woven Cord: Strands of Celtic Christianity for the Church Today.” The author is Michael Mitton, who is clergy in the Church of England. Michael was one of our pilgrimage guides. He has written several books for England’s Bible Reading Fellowship and some fiction. Michael writes of the Celtic pilgrimage “There is a fascinating mix of an ancient story with the eternal story of Jesus and the present story of the pilgrim.”

Our faith is a pilgrimage--Lent is an intensive part of that pilgrimage. So join me, won’t you, on this Celtic journey? I want to take the opportunity to thank the entire congregation for the wonderful

luncheon and commissioning service on February 29th. I was so deeply moved by the gifts and talents shared by so many—whether it was cooking, hospitality, singing, or leading worship. I am humbled by your grace. I have found so much joy in serving this congregation, and I look forward to our pilgrimage together.



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## Understanding the Church's Per Capita Obligation

John Blakeman, Church Treasurer

We are a member of the Maumee Presbytery, the church office and organization that administers and guides the Presbyterian Churches in northwest Ohio. The Presbytery provides many essential services, including the certification of pastors, guidance to local churches on church organization and administration, and many helpful church documents that guide us on programs and services we offer to our members and the great local community of citizens.

Each year, each congregation in each Presbyterian Presbytery is required to submit to the Presbytery office a check for the total "Per Capita" funds collected by each church. Those funds support the Presbytery office, allowing it to support and advise all of its local churches.

By the rules of the Presbyterian Church (USA), in the Book of Order, each church must pay to its Presbytery each year's total Per Capita amount.

The Per Capita amount this year, for each church member, is a total of \$38.60. \$9.85 will be used to conduct the General Assembly, \$3.25 will go to the Synod of the Covenant, and \$25.50 will be retained by the Presbytery of Maumee Valley, for its church-support operations.

Right now, our church has 129 members, so the church is obligated to submit to the Maumee Presbytery \$4,979.40.

Consequently, for those who can, and are willing, the Session respectfully requests that members specifically donate in the Offering their respective Per Capita amounts. With these specified offerings, the budget categories in the annual church budget won't be depleted and the programs and operations they support will not be diminished.

# A Brand New Office!

A work in progress, we are happy to say we are at the finish line!

Many thanks to all who helped make this happen.

Thank you all for being so patient during this clean up phase.



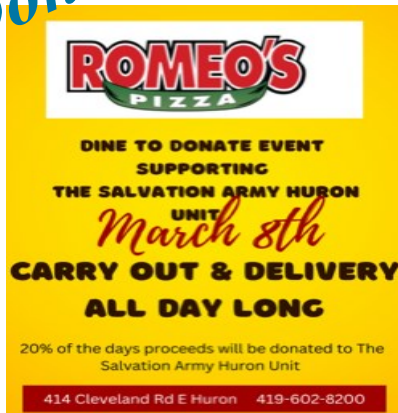
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## Thank You

A HUGE THANK YOU to Jack Arthur, for his time and hard work putting together the new office desk and cabinet.



*Dine to Donate*



## Flower Schedule

3/12 Kitty Cunningham

3/26 Jann., Kerry and John Glann

## Liturgy Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Set up</i>	<i>Servers</i>
3/5	Karen Brown	Marcie Muntz	Ann Pullano Cynthia Brown Mathews Kathy Kirby Phillip Hopkins
3/12	Phillip Hopkins		
3/19	Chuck Kaman		
3/26	Cynthia Brown Mathews		

## Happy 90th Birthday!

Join K.C. Wittmer and her family as they celebrate her birthday, Saturday, March 4th, 1-4 in the fellowship hall. A light lunch will be provided.

## Lenten Soup & Study

Join us March 7th, and every Tuesday in March for our Lenten Soup & Study.

## Mom's/Caregiver's fellowship

If you or someone you know would like to join in on our fellowship Wednesday, March 29th, 11:15—12:30 small lunch provided, fellowship, and making of easter baskets to distribute to our local nursing home residents.

## Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Lions club as they host pancakes with the Easter bunny Saturday, April 1st, 7a.m.—1 p.m. in fellowship hall.

## Pinewood Derby

Sunday, April 2nd at 12 p.m. in the fellowship hall. More information to come.

## Rummage Sale News

- ◆ May 6th at 9 a.m.
- ◆ Drop off items Monday, May 1st after 2 p.m.



# What is Per Capita?

Each year, our congregation supports the connectional church by remitting what is known as Per Capita to the Maumee Valley Presbytery. The amount is calculated by church membership. Our church will give \$4,979, or \$38.60 per member this year.

How is Per Capita distributed? \$9.82 goes to the PC(USA) General Assembly; \$3.25 goes to the Synod of the Covenant; and \$32.03 goes to Maumee Valley Presbytery.

Each entity uses Per Capita to further the ministry of Jesus Christ.

In addition to the administrative functions necessary by equipping leaders, staffing mission work throughout the globe, and paying for preparation for ministry, the funds support many vital missions locally, regionally, and nationally. Here are just a few:

- ◆ Inspiration Station, Norwalk, Ohio: In operation since 2014 tutoring many Hispanic students K-12 in conversational English and assisting with reading, writing, and GED and Citizenship programs for adults.
- ◆ Kirkmont Center, Logan County: A Presbyterian Camp & Conference Centers providing a summer experience rich in fun, friendship, learning, and adventure. Open year-round for other groups.

- ◆ Presbyterian Historical Society: PHS provides records management and preservation services to all of our churches, which is particularly beneficial for some of our oldest churches in Ohio, like First Presbyterian Church of Milan, Ohio, where Thomas Edison was baptized as a young boy.
- ◆ Synod of the Covenant scholarships for undergraduate students and graduate theology students.

FPC Huron includes the Per Capita apportionment in its budget. We are asking each member of the congregation to reimburse the church for their individual assessment and we thank all of you who have already paid your share of our obligation. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. If you haven't yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so.

You can contribute your per capita dollars by noting in the memo line of your check, or by designating your giving on your envelope. Thank you for your generosity.





Many wonder how One Great Hour of Sharing came to be. It all started in the aftermath of World War II. Europe, Japan, and Africa all experienced severe hardship. 1946, Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill of the Episcopal Church got on nationwide radio and challenged Episcopalians to raise one million dollars in one hour. It worked! Sherrill repeated the challenge for three years and raised \$3.8 million for relief.

Other denominations wanted to join this movement, so in 1949, several denominations joined to promote the fundraising program. They formed a committee and made this statement: "This nationwide united effort by America's Christians has an importance far beyond the practical goal of fundraising. For this great joint program will not only strengthen the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas, but will also prove to all the world how great is the power generated when Christians unite in a common cause."

It wasn't just churches getting involved. Hollywood joined in, and on March 26th,

1949, a radio program called "One Great Hour" aired. Sketches were performed by Gregory Peck, Ida Lupino, and Robert Montgomery, President Harry Truman gave an impassioned speech, saying, "...The words of the parable of the Last Judgment have fresh meaning for us. They make clear our duty toward those millions of people in other countries who have suffered and still suffer the miseries of war, destruction, and tyranny."

The hosts challenged those listening to the broadcast to attend church the following day and make a sacrificial contribution. As a result, more than 75,000 churches participated. By 1950, the drive was renamed "One Great Hour of Sharing." By 1954, annual giving to the campaign reached over \$8 million.

Today, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

This year, we are adding some fun to our OGHS challenge. Instead of the typical fish bank, we're collecting change in the big jar in the narthex. Collect your spare change during the week, and drop it in the jar. Then, on Easter Sunday, you will have the opportunity to guess how much money we collected in the jar. The closest guess wins breakfast, lunch, or dinner on Pastor Sara!

You can also give by using one of the OGHS envelopes, simply write it in the memo on your check or note it in your Paypal giving. Thank you for your generosity!



Scout Sunday

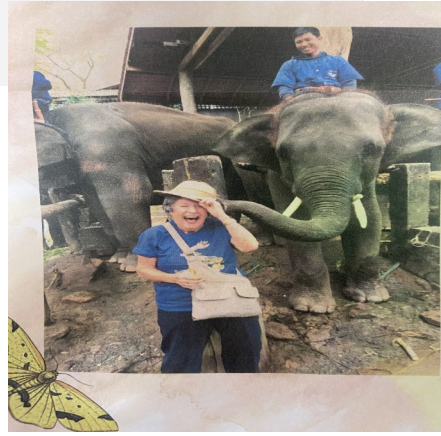


Scouts and families enjoyed the taco bar, as well as many fun activities!





# March Birthday's



- 3/2 K.C. Wittmer  
3/5 Harry Wright  
3/5 William Marsh  
3/7 Mary Emmerson  
3/8 Holly Mueller  
3/9 Bob Kaman  
3/12 Katherine Brouse  
3/15 Carol Mack  
3/26 Andrea Kaman  
3/26 Ann Marie Koch



Do you know Hezekiah's Prayer? See Isaiah 37. Hezekiah's prayer focused on God's character. He didn't pray rote words or seek to manipulate God. Instead, he spoke honestly and simply – like a child trusts a parent's ability to meet a need. Hezekiah asked for what he needed. He was specific in his request, but ultimately trusted the Lord to make the best decision. So trust is a big part of prayer. Trust that God hears and will answer, but it is God's decision when and how to respond to your prayer, and that takes trust. Trust that the Most High, Most Perfect, Most Just God will answer in his perfect time. Meanwhile we pray and obey.



They read the book  
“Strictly No  
Elephants” then  
made friendship  
bracelets bites!



Parties are so much fun for our little  
wonders children. They especially loved  
their valentines day party!



# Preschool News

The word "Preschool" is written in black, and "News" is written in blue. The letter 'o' in "Preschool" is replaced by a red smiley face. Below the text are three decorative elements: a green star, a yellow spiral, and a red smiley face.

## Open house and registration

Little Wonders Presbyterian Preschool Open House, Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am until noon. Please invite any friends or family members to check out their classroom and see what they have to offer.

Online registration will become open to the public after the conclusion of open house.

## Parent / Child Spring Happenings

In the spring they will host donuts with Dad and mornings with mom, more details to come, stay tuned!