

First Presbyterian Church

225 WILLIAMS ST. HURON, OHIO 44839

419-433-5018

FPCHURON@BEX.NET

FROM PASTOR SARA

What's your favorite Christmas carol? There are so many to choose from!

My favorite is "In the Bleak Midwinter." British poet Christine Rosetti wrote the lyrics, while Gustav Holst wrote the most familiar tune setting.

I love this carol for its theological depth. It looks at the coming of Christ as a child and the future coming of Christ's reign. It contrasts nicely the glory of heaven that Christ emptied himself of and the gritty earth where he chose to walk among us.

I found myself reflecting on this carol today as I was driving to the church. I began to ponder why Christ would take on flesh and blood in such a world. The Holy Land was then, as it is now, a place of conflict. Born of the Virgin

Mary, he willingly subjected himself to gossip as being a "bastard" child. And he knew that religious and political authorities would reject him, subjecting him to death on a cross. Why would anyone do that?

The answer is love. God loves us so much that even in the bleak midwinter, with the earth as hard as iron, he came to us in Christ. There is no greater love.

May your Christmas be a blessing as you celebrate the birth of Christ and anticipate his coming to reign over us.



Annual Elder Election

Sunday, December 10th

Immediately following worship

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him; Give him my heart.*

-Christine Rosetti



Music Sunday

Sunday, December 17th

Please join us as Chancel Choir and Friends, Guest Soloists, Handbell Choir, Strings, Brass, and Winds Instrumentalists, Pianist, Organist, and Scripture Readers join together once again to provide a service of worship, celebration, and meditation during this Advent Season. The Congregation's participation will be welcomed and encouraged through the singing of several familiar Christmas carols! As we take time from our busy schedules to celebrate the Christmas Miracle through music and the Word, we hope you will join us!! As it will be the third Sunday in Advent, the theme of JOY is appropriate for this service. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS....There's plenty of room in our 'Inn!'"

Remembrance Tree



During the Advent season in 2015, the FPC Worship Committee began the "Tree of Remembrance" activity and 'Service of Remembrance,' for which a tree is placed in the parlor (below steps leading into the sanctuary) each Advent and ornaments in remembrance of deceased church members, relatives, special friends, special co-workers, etc. are placed on the tree and then saved for the 'Tree of Remembrance' in following years. (The ornament need not represent a death during the past year.) We would encourage anyone who would like to add an ornament/s to bring the ornament and place it on the tree at any time, drop off the ornament in the Office or Choir Room, OR contact the office or Jann-- (440-452-6115) to make arrangements to place the ornament/s for your or with you. Please write the person's name "remembered" on the ornament or attach a small tag. Consider an ornament that reminds you of or is 'characteristic' of the person/s if you choose. (The tree now holds ornaments as varied as angels, fishing tackles, footballs, bells, chalkboards, tea cups, birds, sewing materials, lighthouses, and the lake!). During the morning worship service on December 17th, a brief 'Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remembrance Time' will be included. Each year, the ornaments are packed in a safe spot to be returned to the tree the following Advent. Contact Jann Glann for more information.





Candlelight Service



Please join us for the traditional 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Reflection and Meditation, Lessons, and Carols. Special music from the Chancel Choir, Friends and soloists, Congregational singing of Carols, and readings of the Lessons from Scripture as the "Christmas Story" is told once again. There will be the traditional lighting of the Christ Candle and Passing of the Light through the congregation candles as all sing the beloved hymn "Silent Night", celebrating its 200th-plus Anniversary this Christmas Season! As you leave the sanctuary, it will be Christmas Day! Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Peace on earth to all!



Family Christmas Eve Service

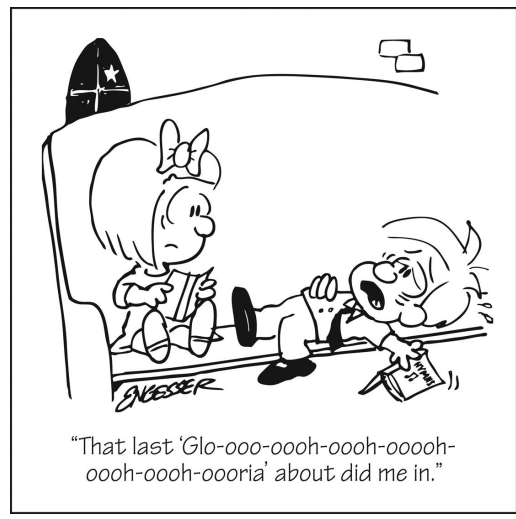
Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so we are having a more informal family service Christmas Eve morning at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy hot cocoa and carols as we celebrate the birth of Christ in worship and fellowship.



The year 2023 brought a delightful number of weddings for some of our (now-adults) "FPC KIDS." There were FIVE of our faithful, active, and devoted 'kids' whose weddings occurred during 2023, and we felt that is something to celebrate! AND....some of the congregation remember them as active "kids" at FPC, while more recent congregants may be interested. SO.....coming in the January issue of Steeple Notes will be write-ups and photos from each wedding... as a means of 'celebrating' !!!

HAVE YOU GUESSED THE FIVE "kids"??? In alphabetical order:

Kerry Glann, Andrea Kaman, Megan Kirby, Julie Koenig, and Ross Marsh!!



Prayer Page



"Just before we close a prayer with an amen, most Christians will say something like "in Jesus' name" or "for Jesus' sake." What are we actually doing when we say that?"

To pray in Jesus' name is to trust the saving work of the Lord Jesus as the sole ground of our access to God. We could never go to God just in our own name. We couldn't go to God and plead based on our own merits. No, we go to God in Jesus' name—and it is a tremendous privilege to do so! Only because we have a sympathetic High Priest can we "draw near to the throne of grace" with con-

Pray for :

The family and friends of Virginia Parisi, the family and friends of Carolyn Mihalick, Jackie Metzger, Mike Bork, Sarah McCoy, David Fenn, Ward DeLamatre, Jeanne Schaffer, Ann West, Tony and Barb Smith, Cameron James, John P. Jones, Carol Kopkas, Rachel Leonard, Denny Velliquette, Eldon Zimmer, June Franduto, Paul Brown, Angela Belliveau, Margaret Swords, Brad Mason, Jim, David Wittmer, Gabe Phillips, Kerry Lynn, Marla Pedersen, Nancy McPeak, David Claxton, Nick LaFace, Gene Darby, Rev. Clair Brewer, Sharon Carnal, Barb Gettman, Roberta Leimbach, Billie Urie.

Pray for the churches of Huron

12/3 Zion Lutheran Church

12/10 First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Sara Hodsden

12/17 Journey Church

12/24 Christ Episcopal Church
Father Michael Floyd

12/31 St. Peter Catholic Church
Father Doug Garand

PRAY MORE
worry less

Communion

Set Up: Katie McGraw

Servers: Katie McGraw, Ann Pullano, Kathy Kirby, Patti Smith

Liturgist

12/3 Janet Mueller

12/10 Jack Arthur

12/17 No Liturgist

12/24 Janeane Hopkins

12/31 Phillip Hopkins

Flowers

12/3 Gail Burke

12/10 Jann, Kerry and John Glann

12/17 John Bickell

12/24 Francesca Lendrum

Counters

12/3 Francesca Lendrum & Ellen
Drumm

12/10 John & Sara Blakeman

12/17 Jack & Marcia Arthur

12/24 Chuck & Cindy Kaman



12/2 Chris Hakeman

12/22 Jung Hun Marty Ryu

12/7 Karen Brown

12/24 Edwina Chamberlin

12/16 Jeanne Smith

12/25 Carol Johnson, Katy Mischler

12/20 Betty Reed

12/29 Sharon Velliquette



Community Meal

Christ Community Meals provides free meals every Monday at 12 p.m. and the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. (12/13 & 12/27)



Our Quilting Ladies meet every Thursday from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. We would love for you to join, all skill levels are welcome. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy this wonderful opportunity of fellowship !



Our Little Wonders children had another busy month! In Chapel they learned a couple new songs, they continue to enjoy big play on Tuesday in the fellowship hall.

They have also been working hard on all their songs for their upcoming Christmas Program!

thank you



Thank you all for supporting the annual pizza fundraiser. They had another successful year, all money that was raised goes directly to the preschool for supplies, new books, learning equipment, scholarships, etc.

The children look forward to seeing Miss. Melissa from Huron Public Library. She visits once a month, for story time. They enjoy singing and dancing, they just love being silly with Miss Melissa!



Our Little Wonders Children will perform their annual Christmas program on Wednesday, December 13th, in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. for the morning class and 2:30 p.m. for the afternoon class. All are invited, the program will also be live streamed on our Facebook page for all to see!



Huron Boy Scout Troop 31

First Presbyterian Church

Troop 31 will host a spaghetti dinner on Dec. 8th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, a roll with butter, and a dessert. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children and are available at the door or in advance from any member of Troop 31. Dine-in or carry-out is available. Please plan on coming to support our scout troop. Thanks!



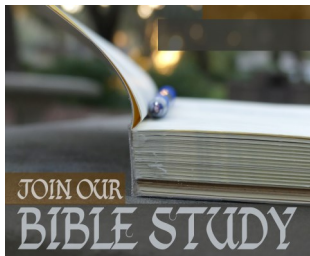
On November 19th, following the worship service, we gathered together as a church family to celebrate Thanksgiving and give thanks for our many blessings.

A special thanks to the Nurture and Mission committee for organizing this wonderful meal, to Bob Muntz for fixing the turkey and dressing (which were delicious), to all who brought dishes to share, and to all who served and helped clean up.





Our next Ladies Who Lunch gathering will be on Friday, December 8th, at 11:30 a.m. We will eat at Jim's Pizza Box, 819 Main St. in Huron. Please RSVP to the church office by December 6th. Need a ride? Call the church office, and we'll get one arranged for you.



Join "Girlfriends in God" as we study and discuss scripture and our spiritual walk together.

Our study groups will be held Wednesday, December 6th & 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room .



Join us and our scouts for our annual Kids Christmas Party on Monday, December 4th, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Lots of fun for kids of all ages; crafts, cookie decorating, games, stories and more! Pizza will be served.



Holiday Hours:

Dawn will be taking some vacation time around Christmas, so please be advised of the following office hour adjustments:

Closed December 21, 25 & 26, December 27th (Office hours) 8 a.m.—12 p.m.

Closed December 28-January 1st.

We will check the church email and voicemail, but if you have any immediate pastoral care concerns, please contact Pastor Sara directly at 610-955-3075.

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	4 12 p.m. Community Lunch 6 p.m. Advent Party 7 p.m. Scout Troop 31	5 9:30 & 1:30 Preschool Big Play (F.H.) 10:30 & 2:30 Preschool Chapel 8 p.m. AA	6 6 p.m. "Girlfriends in God" Bible Study—Youth Room	7 9 a.m. Quilters 10 a.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. AA	8 Women's Lunch Jims Pizza at 11:30 a.m.	9 Scouts Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.—7 p.m.
10 10 a.m. Music Sunday 11 a.m. Fellowship Bell Choir at Admiral's Pointe	11 12 p.m. Community Lunch 7 p.m. Scout Troop 31	12 9:30 & 1:30 Preschool Big Play (F.H.) 10:30 & 2:30 Preschool Chapel 8 p.m. AA	13 Preschool Christmas Program 10:30 & 2:30 5 p.m. Christ Community Meal 6 p.m. "Girlfriends in God Bible Study—Youth	14 9 a.m. Quilters 10 a.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. AA	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	18 12 p.m. Community Lunch 7 p.m. Scout Troop 31	19 9:30 & 1:30 Preschool Big Play (F.H.) 10:30 & 2:30 Preschool Chapel 8 p.m. AA	20 6:30 p.m. Session via Zoom	21 9 a.m. Quilters 10 a.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. AA	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS 12 p.m. Community Lunch	26 9:30 & 1:30 Preschool Big Play (F.H.) 10:30 & 2:30 Preschool Chapel 8 p.m. AA	27 5 p.m. Christ Community Meal	28 9 a.m. Quilters 10 a.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. AA	29	30
31 10 a.m. Worship						