

First Presbyterian Church

225 Williams St Huron, Ohio 44839

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January 2024

STEEPLENOTES

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SARA

On Monday, January 1st, I know I will be eating pork with horseradish and sauerkraut. I have already purchased my sauerkraut. I learned the hard way on New Year's Eve in 2018 that the concentration of people of Germanic heritage is so great in this area that there is an annual sauerkraut shortage in the grocery store!

Different cultures have different New Year's traditions. In Japan, it is tradition to clean your house before midnight. No danger of me doing that! In Ireland, they take bread and bang it against the walls and doors to "ward off evil spirits." Columbians carry an empty suitcase on New Year's Eve, hoping the coming year will bring them exciting travel. In Scotland, the tradition of "first-footing" will determine your fate for the year. Want to be prosperous? Your first guest should be tall with dark hair and bring coins or black buns. In Spain, they attempt to pop a grape in their mouth each time the clock chimes at midnight.

A common theme among these traditions is an effort to make life better for the coming year. We reflect on the difficulties and sorrows of the year coming to a close, and we hope for a fresh start. We are mentally wiping the slate clean for ourselves. That's what another tradition, making New Year's resolutions, is all about.

Here is some Good News: Each day of our lives in Christ is a fresh start, a new year, a new life, a new beginning. Remember these words from Paul in II Corinthians 5:16-17: "So if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Day by day, Christ is molding and shaping us--if we let him. Even if we mess it up on Monday, we are made new on Tuesday. It's hope without end!

I pray that God blesses your 2024 and that we all claim the promise of being made new each day. Happy New Year!

CHURCHES OF HURON

1/7 - Huron United Methodist Church

Pastor Pamela Sayre

1/14 - Zion Lutheran Church

1/21 - First Presbyterian Church

Pastor Sara Hodsden

1/28 - Journey Church

Pastor Parish Purnell, Jr.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Dominic Parisi, Ben Delamatre, Dan Work,
and Emily Stellpflug.

PRAY FOR

Dolores Hodsden, Ron Harper,
Jackie Metzger, Mike Bork, Sarah McCoy,
Ward DeLamatre,
Jeanne Schaffer, Ann West, Tony
and Barb Smith, Cameron James,
Carol Kopkas, Rachel Leonard,
Denny Velliquette, Eldon Zimmer,
June Franduto, Paul Brown, Angela
Belliveau, Brad Mason, Jim, David
Wittmer, Gabe Phillips, Kerry Lynn,
Marla Pederson, Nancy McPeak,
David Claxton, Nick LaFace, Gene
Darby, Rev. Clair Brewer, Sharon
Carnal, Barb Gettman, Roberta
Leimbach, Billie Urie,





Guest Preacher: Ginny Teitt

On Sunday, January 27th, Pastor Sara will swap pulpits with the Rev. Virginia Teitt. Ginny is the organizing pastor of Concord Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio, and Director of the New Wilmington Missionary Conference. The Concord Presbyterian Church is one of our partners in the Transforming Church Initiative, along with Norwalk Presbyterian and Lancaster, OH Presbyterian. In addition to preaching, Ginny will run focus groups with people from our community, while Pastor Sara will return the favor in Columbus.

Transforming Church Initiative Next Steps

In September and October, many of you participated in our TCI Survey. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and opinions, they have provided valuable insights. We are currently digesting the results, which will inform focus group discussions on the weekend of January 26-27. Please pray for the TCI team as they begin to discern our congregation's core values.

Home Blessings

The annual Epiphany Home Blessings will take place January 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., January 3rd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and January 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pastor Sara will visit your home and bless it for 2024. Each visit lasts 30 minutes or less. To sign up, go to <https://shorturl.at/psLPR>, or contact Pastor Sara.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 14th after worship.

NOW....Coming in FEBRUARY, LOVE MONTH

Due to the Holidays and various 'crazy' schedules for EVERYONE, the decision was made to wait until The LOVE Month of FEBRUARY to include "2023 Wedding News" from FIVE of our "kids" from FPC ... SO, keep anticipating the photos, articles, etc. which will be forthcoming!



JANUARY

Liturgists

1/7 Ann Pullano
 1/14 Betty Reed
 1/21 Chuck Kaman
 1/28 Cynthia Brown Mathews

Communion set up

Janeane Hopkins

Servers

Janeane Hopkins,
 Phillip Hopkins,
 Bob Muntz,
 Marcie Muntz

USHERS

1/7 Jack & Marcia Arthur
 1/14 Phillip Hopkins & Kitty Cunningham
 1/21 Marcie Muntz & Betty Reed
 1/28 Don & Anne Russell

COUNTERS

1/7 Francesca & Ellen
 1/14 Jack & Marcia
 1/21 Marcie & Bob
 1/28 John & Sarah



1/3 William Roose
 1/4 Janet Zimmer
 1/10 Tim Drumm
 1/11 Pete Guerrera
 1/12 Rita Phillips
 1/15 Meghan Johnson, Chris Mischler
 1/16 Emma Horan
 1/17 Barbara Gettman
 1/20 Scot Ransom
 1/23 Bethany Schippel
 1/26 Sheri Ransom
 1/29 Rachel Pratt



CHRIST COMMUNITY MEALS

Every Monday at noon
 first and fourth Wednesday evening of the month.
 January 10th & 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Thank you!



CUB SCOUT ADVENT PARTY

Thank you to all the volunteers serving at our Cub Scout Advent Party. Our Scouts decorated cookies, made ornaments from our tree, and received their Pinewood Derby cars.



THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who helped with Margaret Swords' funeral dinner. It was a joy to provide the family the time, space, and meal to celebrate Margaret's impact on so many.

CHRISTINGLE FELLOWSHIP





Little Wonders had a busy month.

Making snow for "S" day!



A visit and story from St. Nick



They ended their year with a successful Christmas party and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Thank you all for your support, the children will soon enjoy new toys in the classroom!



**The new toys were purchased through the success of their annual fundraiser!
Thank you!**

JANUARY

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Office Closed 12 p.m. Community Lunch	2 9 & 10 LW Big Play (FH) 10:30 & 2:30 LW Chapel with Pastor Sara	3	4 9 a.m. Quiting Group 10 a.m. Bell Choir	5	6
7 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	8 12 p.m. Community Lunch 7 p.m. Scouts	9 9 & 10 LW Big Play (FH) 10:30 & 2:30 LW Chapel with Pastor Sara	10 5 p.m Christ Community Meal	11 9 a.m. Quiting Group 10 a.m. Bell Choir	12	13
14 10 a.m. Worship 11a.m. Congregational meeting	15 12 p.m. Community Lunch 7 p.m. Scouts	16 9 & 10 LW Big Play (FH) 10:30 & 2:30 LW Chapel with Pastor Sara	17 6:30 p.m. Session	18 9 a.m. Quiting Group 10 a.m. Bell Choir	19	20
21 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	22 12 p.m. Community Lunch 7 p.m. Scouts	23 9 & 10 LW Big Play (FH) 10:30 & 2:30 LW Chapel with Pastor Sara	24 5 p.m Christ Community Meal	25 9 a.m. Quiting Group 10 a.m. Bell Choir	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	29 12 p.m. Community Lunch 7 p.m. Scouts	30 9 & 10 LW Big Play (FH) 10:30 & 2:30 LW Chapel with Pastor Sara	31			