

First Presbyterian Church
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STEEPLE NOTES

February 2024

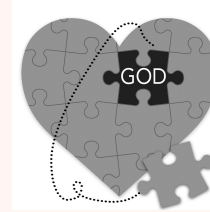


A Message From Your Pastor

When I was a child, I overheard someone tell my mother that another child a few years younger than me had a heart murmur. The child would have to stay at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital because the doctor believed he had a hole in his heart. My very literal understanding was that the heart was not speaking clearly and that someone must have taken a pin and pricked a hole in his heart. I was surprised to hear that hearts could speak and horrified that there might be someone on the prowl poking holes in children's hearts with straight pins!

The ventricular septal defect (VSD) is the most common heart birth defect. According to the Cleveland Clinic, VSD "is a condition where you're born with a hole in the wall between the two lower chambers of your heart." Our hearts are designed with four different chambers; each sealed off from the others to pump blood efficiently. VSD means there is a leak between the two lower chambers of the heart. If the condition is severe enough, it will cause problems for problems for both heart and lungs. Most of the time, the hole will close on its own. In cases where the hole is very large, surgery must be completed before the child is two years old to prevent permanent damage.

February is the month of hearts. Of course, we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. But since 1964, it is also



designated American Heart Month to bring awareness to cardiac health.

Blaise Pascal wrote of a hole in each human's heart. "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

The hole Pascal wrote of also causes us to malfunction. Humanity will look for power, wealth, or fame to fill that hole. We try to fill that hole by being busy, buying stuff, and ordering others around. We think these things will fill the hole, but they cannot.

The hole doesn't close on its own if we let it. It can only be closed or filled by our God. Jesus invites us to fill our holes with his presence in John's Gospel: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10b)

Lent allows us to stop trying to fill the hole ourselves or pretending it will close on its own. It's an opportunity to invite our Great Physician, our Divine Heart Surgeon, to come and fill it and renew us. In this edition of Steeple Notes, you will find information about our Ash Wednesday worship service and our Lenten study—two resources to help let Christ into our hearts.

Have a blessed Lenten season, one of growth and healing.



40 days OF LENT

What is Lent? According to the PCUSA, "The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness."

FPC Huron offers opportunities to prepare ourselves for Easter through study, prayer, worship, and giving. We hope you join us for these offerings.



Join us on February 14th at 7:00 p.m. for a worship service that will offer a space for reflection, prayer, and repentance.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

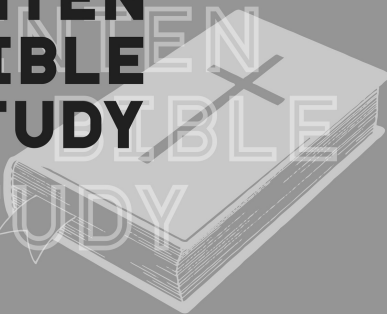
The One Great Hour of Sharing Challenge is back! Beginning February 18th, bring your change (and green paper money) and contribute it to our big OGHS jar. At the close of worship on March 24th, the person with the closest guess will win a meal with Pastor Sara!

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.

Eugene Peterson's *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* is a Christian classic that explores the theme of discipleship in an instant society. Peterson argues that the Christian life is not a sprint but a long-distance race. It touches on calling, community, perseverance, humility, and joy.

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. from February 27 to March 26th as we enjoy a soup meal and reflect on these themes together. Study guides are \$10 through the church office. Please call in your order by February 20th. You may also order or download an electronic copy through Amazon, but please search for the Bible Study version rather than the study guide.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



40 days OF LENT

Project 5000



List One

- 2 Cans tuna fish
- 1 jar peanutbutter
- 4 cans soup
- 4 cans vegetables
- 2 boxes mac & Cheese
- 1 large jar spaghetti sauce
- 1 1lb box spaghetti
- 1 package juice boxes
- 2 cans beef stew or chilli
- 1 borwnie mix

List Two

- 2 boxes pasta
- 1 large can beans
- 1 large box cereal
- 1 large plastic bottle apple juice
- 4 cans fruit
- 2 cans ravioli
- 2 cans beef stew or chilli
- 2 cans hash
- 1 brownie mix

The Presbyterian Women are launching a food drive for the Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry. Project 5000 comes from the Bible story in which Jesus feeds the crowd of people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. We are called to help those in need. The food pantry is always greatful to receive donations. Lets fill the pantry shelves and bring smiles to those in need!

The food collection will run from February 14th to March 17th. Please use reusable shopping bags or boxes, bring them to the churh and place them on the bench in the parlor. Any financial donations collected or checks mailed in , marked Helping Hands mission, will be used to purchase food for the pantry.

Here are two lists of foods that work well to shop from. If every family donated one food from this list that would be great. Recently the items from list one were purchased frrom Aldi's and the total was \$22.24.

Thank you for your contribution to this mission, helping to feed people as Jesus did so often throughtout his ministry.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

February Happenings



Scout Sunday
February 11th



Ladies who Lunch

Hey, ladies! Time to mark your calendars for a gathering of fine food and even finer company! We'll be meeting on February 9th at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden on Route 250 in Sandusky. Don't forget to give Dawn or Marcie Muntz a shout if you're joining the party so we can make reservations for the crew. Also, if you have wheels and can swing by to pick up those who can't drive, let us know. We'll see you on the ninth, ready to break bread and make memories!



BLOOD DRIVE

Attention blood donors! The Red Cross Blood Drive is on February 20th from 1:00-6:00 p.m. and in Fellowship Hall. Hop on over to redcross.org to snag your appointment and become a hero!



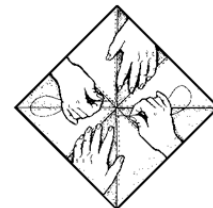
CHRIST'S MEAL

Come and dine with us! Christ's Community Meals offers free lunch every Monday at noon. Additionally, we host a dinner on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. We always welcome volunteers, dessert makers, and of course, guests!



QUILTERS GROUP

Come stitch up some fun with the quilters every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Don't know the first thing about quilting? No sweat, they'll happily teach you!





Weddings

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



2023 was the year of the wedding--at least for FIVE of our active-in-the-past young people married in the same year....so we thought you'd like to share in these celebrations by having a few pictures and information 'bits' to enjoy....and the "LOVE MONTH" of February seemed to be a very fitting time to include such!! You will note that each wedding took place in a different location, indicative of their current lives and interests.

All five of the 'kids' grew up in this church, were very involved in church activities, were members of their respective Communicants Class at Huron FPC and were Confirmed here. Their parents are still active members here, as well.....SO 'congratulations!' to the married couples AND to their parents/families!! (AND when you have a few minutes, you may want to peruse the pictures on our "Communicants Wall" to see them in younger days...AND to see other wonderful 'kids' of many years who this church has nurtured!!) ALSO, look for a few photos on the Harvest Table on "Valentine Sunday"....thanks to Kathy Kirby!!



The marriage of KERRY GLANN and SALLY KELLEY
June 21, 2023

Kerry and Sally were married in Huron First Presbyterian Church at noon on the first day of summer! The ceremony was totally designed by the couple, and was officiated (permission of Session granted !) by Rev. Dr. Pat Smith, a former colleague of Kerry's in Muncie, Indiana, and a very special former Pastor of Kerry's, our own Rev. Dr. George Bell, Pastor emeritus of FPC, who wrote and read poetry especially for the two. Our own Pastor Sara graciously volunteered to live stream/tape the event! Participants in this VERY musical wedding included members of Sally's family (she and they are Houston, TX natives), of Kerry's family, friends and colleagues from several universities, states, etc. AND a choir made up of several of our FPC Choir members, friends and former students from varied locations, etc. and directed by Kerry's Huron Middle School Music teacher, Marty Smith, and by his colleague at Ball State University, Dr. Andrew Crow, long-time friend and colleague of both. Dr. Peter Douglas, also a former student and colleague of both, was the organist. AND..... Marcie and Bob Muntz assisted by Ann Pullano catered the reception (held in Jann's back yard!!!) with wonderful help from SEVERAL of the Presbyterian ladies (and gents!)

Kerry received his music degrees from BGSU, Kent State U, and the University of North Texas, and is currently a tenured faculty of the Music Department at Ball State University and Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Muncie. Sally received her music degrees from Bryan College, Middle Tennessee State University, and Ball State University, and now serves as Adjunct faculty at Anderson College and Ball State. They both serve the Masterworks Chorale in Muncie, Kerry as Artistic Director/Conductor and Sally as Executive Director.

The couple LOVES to travel and especially when it involves music (or theatre) study, adventure, concerts, and/or is job related! With Presbyterian and family 'ties' on Kerry's side (and a wee bit on Sally's side), the couple traveled to Scotland for their honeymoon. They currently reside in Muncie, Indiana.



Megan (Kirby) Bauman
Daughter of Tom and Kathy Kirby
The Kirby / Baumna Wedding Story,
By Kathy Kirby

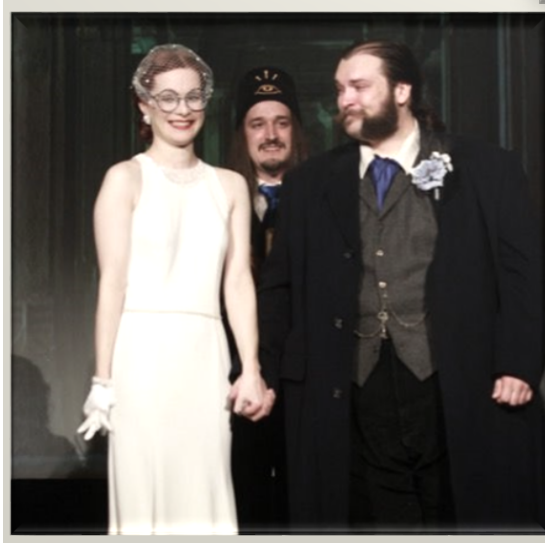
Our Newpew made the match for Megan and Rich Bauman in the summer of 2015. Many emails and texts were exchanged for 2 months and the romance started! Oddly Rich's family lives a couple blocks from our house! They lived together for 7 years and Rich finally proposed in 2022. The wedding of their dreams was to be married on a beach in the Carolinas. They just wanted family and a few close friends to stay for a week at a beach house. It all came true on May 12, 2023, at Corella Beach, NC. We rented a gorgeous home that had plenty of room for the immediate families and a few close friends to stay for a week.

Megan is a counselor at Ohio School for the Deaf in Columbus, and Rich is an assistant manager at the PGA Super Store in Columbus. They live in Galloway, Ohio, with their two pups, Scarlet and Zeke.

Megan's gown was designed by a friend (Kelly Faetanini) from Sandusky High School, who got a degree in fashion design and now has several wedding boutiques, including in NYC!



On October 13, 2023, Andrea Kaman, daughter of Chuck and Cindy Kaman, married Josh Brown. Andrea and Josh met in Disney World while in the Disney College Program in 2015 and 2016. The wedding ceremony took place in the Moonlight Theatre, a restored Vaudeville/silent movie theatre in St. Charles, Illinois. The happy couple reside in nearby Elgin, Illinois. Josh is the designer of escape rooms, and Andrea is a call center representative for Roadside Protect.



Jennah and Ross Marsh

Jennah and Ross were married May 6, 2023, in Jacksonville, Florida aboard the USS Orleck, a Gearing Class Destroyer.

Jennah is a Navy Veteran from Midlothian, Texas, and is currently a Paramedic for Security Fire Department in Colorado Springs. She is certified in Wildland Fire and is a tutor for EMT and paramedic students. Her hobbies include reading, travel, horses, and fitness.

Ross is a firefighter/EMT for the city of Castle Rock, Colorado. He graduated from Huron High in 2007 and attended Eastern Kentucky University and received his BS in Industrial Safety and Risk Management. After graduation, he headed west after visiting Colorado as a Boy Scout in Troop 31. He is also a Wildland Engine Boss, certified in SWAT, and is a tenor drummer with the Castle Rock Fire Department Pipe and Drum Band. His hobbies include hunting, travel, Pickleball, cars, and boating.

At this time, they both volunteer for Project Victory, a humanitarian group that trains Ukrainian authorities in emergency techniques and delivers life-saving medical equipment to Ukrainian hospitals.

Jennah just returned from Ukraine in November, and Ross is currently on his third mission trip and will return on Valentine's Day.

Ross asked Jennah to be his bride in front of Leod Castle, home to the Mackenzie Clan in Scotland. Ross's great-grandmother is descended from this Clan. Her ring was designed and made by Corey Wechter, a Huron graduate, and contained a diamond received from Ross' paternal grandparents. She said "Yes!"

They decided their small wedding would be on the USS Orleck, now a Navy floating museum. Ross' maternal grandfather served on the Orleck in 1945 running her sea trials. At Jennah's side was her sister and a childhood friend. Ross was attended by his brothers Greg and Jamie. Ross' friend and lieutenant from Cuchara, Colorado officiated the wedding.

Jennah wore a stunning gown with Ross' grandmother's headpiece from 1946 consisting of wax-dipped orange blossoms and, of course, cowgirl boots! Flower arrangements were created by the groom's aunt. Ross wore his paternal grandfather's watch and his late uncle's Italian leather shoes. Receptions were held in Jacksonville and the historic Good Pasture Barn in Beulah, Colorado where they have a home and a B and B.

They currently reside in Pueblo, Colorado with their 2 dogs, 2 horses, a bunch of chickens, a duck, and a turkey named Earl. They are excited to welcome the first baby girl into the Marsh family in 72 years. Mackenzie Marie Marsh is expected to arrive in June.



On October 14, 2023, family and friends gathered at Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati to witness the union of Julie Rose Koenig and Kyle Douglas Harper. Julie grew up as a member of our congregation, becoming a Communicant in 2004.

Julie and Kyle met in 2010 while students at Otterbein University. Julie graduated with a degree in Music Education in 2013 and Kyle in Music Business in 2012.

From there they both moved to Greeley, Colorado, where Julie obtained a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Northern Colorado in 2019.

Julie is currently an adjunct instructor of jazz voice and piano at Laramie County Community College (Cheyenne, WY), an instructor of voice and piano at Flourish Music Academy (Greeley, CO), and serves as a Music Director for Center for Spiritual Living NoCo and plays Keyboards for Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins. She is a Singer/Songwriter who has released two CDs: Renaissance Woman (2021) and Intruder (2024) and is active in the local Fort Collins music scene.

Kyle works as a Support Engineer for the Denver, CO branch of Radiant Technology.

The couple currently lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.



WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Ushers

2/4 Janet Mueller, Patti Smith
2/11 Janet Mueller & Francesca Lendrum
2/18 Chuck & Cindy Kaman
2/25 Richard & Cynthia Mathews

Liturgists

2/4

Liturgist - Marcie Muntz

Communion Set up - Sarah Blakeman

Servers -

Sarah Blakeman

Chuck Kaman

Cindy Kaman

Patti Smith

2/11 Katie McGraw

2/18 John Blakeman

2/25 Janet Mueller

Flowers

2/11 Scout Sunday - Pat & Mark Koch
in celebration of Scout Sunday

2/25 Janeane Hopkins in celebration of
Phillip's birthday!

Sunday Counters

2/4 Francesca Lendrum and Ellen Drumm
2/11 John & Sarah Blakeman
2/18 Marcie & Bob Muntz
2/25 Chuck & Cindy Kaman



PRAYER PAGE

In this world of turmoil, not unlike the world in the first century, we desperately want peace. And not only peace but unity in Spirit. That will only come when Christ returns, but we can pray for it now as Jesus did 2000 years ago. In 2024, let us pray that our Lord will enable us to be truly one in Spirit with all those who are truly His children through faith, then the world will know....

Jesus Prays for All Believers

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:20-23 (NIV)

Pray for churches of Huron

2/4 Christ Episcopal Church - Father Michael Floyd
2/11 St. Peter Catholic Church - Father Doug Garand
2/18 Huron United Methodist Church -
Pastor Pamel Sayre
2/25 Zion Lutheran Church

Pray for....

Family of Gene Darby, Eileen Darby, Eldon Zimmer, Delores Hodsdon, 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, David Claxton, Nick LaFace, Rev. Clair Brewer, Sharon Carnal, Barb Gettman, Roberta Leimbach, Billie Urie, David Fenn, and Jon Nickols, Jr.



Little Wonders News



in memory of our Little Wonders graduate, Evelyn, The Preschool was gifted with a STEM train and block set by Mark and Pat Koch.



THIS MONTH

Birthday celebrations
Librarian Visits and a visit from Erie Metroparks!

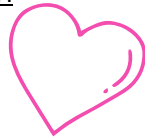


CONTACT



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IMPORTANT DATES

Annual Valentines day party will be held on Wednesday, February 14th.

No School Monday, February 19th.
In observance of Presidents Day!

Little Wonders Preschool will be holding thier annual open house on Saturday, March 2nd.



Monthly Session Meeting Highlights

Session met via Zoom on January 17th. It's so nice to be able to have snowbirds join us at this time of year!

Each committee reported and items discussed more in-depth were:

- The upcoming congregational meeting, and making sure all committees had their reports in for publication.
- Ohio Edison is responsible for replacing the bulbs that illuminate our parking area. They are reminded on a weekly basis to come and replace our burned out parking lot bulbs.
- The TCI survey results, and the upcoming focus groups.
- Thanks to Jann for continuing to play the organ at services. Worship committee is ever on the look out for an organist!
- Susan Martter and Marcie Muntz will represent Session on this year's nominating committee.
- Elected Marcia Arthur to serve as Clerk of Session, and John Blakeman to serve as Treasurer.
- Voted to serve communion on the first Sunday of each month.
- The meeting ended with prayer at about 7:45 p.m.

Remember, your Session members are: Susan Martter, Jack Arthur, Marcie Muntz, Deb Schippel, Sarah Blakeman, Cynthia Brown Mathews, Ellen Drumm, Francesca Lendrum, Doug Quinn, Clerk Marcia Arthur, and Moderator Sara Hodsdon.

Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights



BUILDING & GROUNDS

The Steeple Bell pull rope has been fixed. The exterior door behind the pulpit has been replaced. Extra high-intensity LED exterior lighting has been installed in the courtyard walkway area leading into the parlor entrance and by the flagpole.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday school sessions for children continue to meet on the third Sunday of each month, except in the summer. The curriculum used this year is "All in One Sunday School- 13 lessons for kids ages 4-12" by Lois Keffer. Pastor Sara continues with adult study concerning current events after church on Sundays. Grab a cup of coffee and a cookie and stay for an hour of lively discussion before heading home! Katy McGraw, Deb Schippel, Gail Burke, and Chuck Kaman are invaluable helpers with our Sunday school program. Thank you sooooo much!!!

NURTURE & MISSION

In 2023 we visited the homebound and provided meals for the congregational meeting, Valentine's Reception, Easter Brunch, Lenten Soup Dinners, and Rally Day. We sent Valentine's and Christmas cards to the homebound. We sponsored poetry readings and The Two Cents a Meal program on the first Sundays. Many thanks to our helpers: Gail Burke, Ellen Drumm, Kathy Kirby, Janet Mueller, Marcie Muntz, Patti Smith, Ann Pullano, Katy McGraw, and Ron Ruble.



WORSHIP

Wendy Quinn assisting in developing the new Usher rotation.

Janeane Hopkins continuing to provide Bell Choir leadership.

Lenten and Advent themes and study series.

Worship through Music Sunday in December.

STEWARDSHIP

The theme of "Dessert First" came from Moses' explanation of the practice of tithing. God called his people to bring a tithe of all he had provided them and celebrate by eating and drinking those tithes all in one day! Tithing is a sacrifice, but it is also a celebration of God's abundant giving. The intention was to point out that stewardship is not a burden but a blessing.

Additionally, inspirational stories from some of our faithful members were offered during each Sunday service, accompanied by the recipe of their favorite dessert in the bulletin. Pastor Sara connected sermons to the stories and theme to provide "food for thought" at each service. When the five-week campaign concluded, we had a dessert contest. The favorite? What else but the tried-and-true Lemon Meringue Pie baked by Betty Reed? Yay!



Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights



MUSIC

We continued to utilize singers, instrumentalists, and the Handbell Choir on a regular basis for our Sunday morning Worship Services, as well as for a number of Special Services. To each individual who was a part of this 'continuing' service, I am most grateful! For the sake of brevity, I will not indicate every musical portion provided in our services during 2023. However, the following summary will attempt to give a brief overview of music activity for the year.

Great appreciation is offered to those who donate to our Music Program Funds either as Memorial donations or as general donations. Such generosity is GREATLY appreciated and is vital to the life of our program!! AND...to the faithful members of ALL the choirs and instrumentalists, a special THANK YOU for sharing your gifts and talents, for your dedication, and for the JOY you bring to this congregation!! And congregation, THANK YOU for being so very supportive of our Music Program!!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The rummage sale, held in the spring and fall, is one of the major events of PW. As well as being a major fundraiser for the group, it is a time of fellowship for the women of the church. The saying "many hands make light work" never rings truer than on rummage sale weeks. Thank you, Cindy Kaman, for chairing this, and thank you workers for helping the event run so smoothly.

PW is responsible for fellowship hour after church each week. The women also help with funeral lunches and church meals. The PW help wherever and whenever needed.

All women in the church are members of PW-a wonderful fellowship of God's servants.

Thank you for your support of Presbyterian Women as we serve the church!



CHIRST'S COMMUNIT MEAL

Last year we prepared 11,561 meals! What an accomplishment for the volunteers. They never talk about how tired they are, but what we can do next. Monday, they do start at 6 a.m., and work as late as 2 p.m. Wednesday 9 a.m., but they work until 7 p.m. or until their jobs are completed with clean up.

