

STEEPLE NOTES

APRIL 2024

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that on Monday, April 8th, we will be in the path of a total solar eclipse.

Although this has been going on since creation, the oldest recorded solar eclipse was 4,000 or so years ago by the Chinese. Ancient Chinese mythology explained that a celestial dragon had eaten the sun. People would make noise by shouting and banging drums to scare the dragon away. Native American Choctaw had a similar tale: a squirrel eating the sun instead of a dragon. In Indian mythology, a demon named Rahu tried to sneak into the banquet of the gods to drink the nectar that gave immortality. When Vishnu caught him, he beheaded Rahu, and the eclipse was his head flying across space, blocking the sun. The Incans believed that the eclipse was their sun god, Inti, expressing his anger. They would gather and determine an appropriate sacrifice. Sadly, this was often a human sacrifice.

The scientific explanation for a total solar eclipse is that the moon passes between the sun and Earth, blocking the light from the sun and casting a shadow on Earth. We know the sun never really disappears. There is no dragon or squirrel munching away at the sun (I'd imagine it was too hot to eat!), no head flinging across the sky, and no need to sacrifice a human to make the sun come back. The sun is always there.

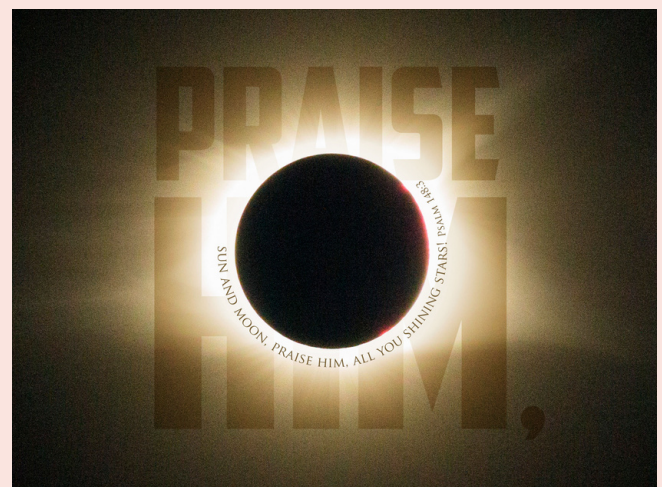
Sometimes, in our lives, something tries to block out the Son. Whether it is a mental or physical illness, personal struggles with family or finances, a tragedy, or the death of a loved one, something will come along and attempt to

disrupt our view of Jesus. It, too, will cast a long shadow over our lives and feel like the darkest of times. It's those times we need to be reminded that the obstruction and the shadows are only temporary.

One of the coolest parts of a total solar eclipse is the peak when the moon is directly in front of the sun. Even then, you can see "the corona," the sun's light peaking around the moon. The sun can never be entirely hidden, and neither can the Son.

Paul tells us in Romans, "am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (8:38-39)

Enjoy the eclipse! And when you seem surrounded by shadows and strain to see the light, know that the shadows and darkness are temporary. The Son is eternal.



April Happenings

Upcoming Events



On Sunday, April 21st, at 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, the Nurture and Mission Committee will host a Poetry Reading on "Poetry in Motion" in honor of National Poetry Month. If you wish to be a reader, contact Ron Ruble at 419-433-3820 (leave a message) by April 8th.



An Eagle Scout Ceremony will take place to honor Alden Dennis and Jack Zimmerman on Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception.

Ladies who lunch



This month we will be able to have lunch and shop! We will be meeting at Cracker Barrel on route 250 at 11:30 on April 12. Come have lunch and then peruse their lovely gift shop. See you then!

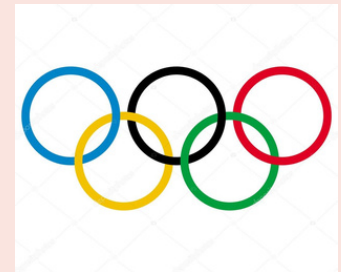
Reminders

Rummage Sale reminder...

The annual rummage sale will be Saturday, May 4th, at 9 a.m.

You can drop off donations on Monday, April 29th, after 2 p.m., and throughout the week during business hours.

Volunteers are needed to help set up for the sale on Friday, May 3rd, at 9 a.m. Please contact Cindy Kaman if you can help!



SAVE THE DATE:
COMMUNITY VBS
OLYMPICS
JUNE 18-20
9:30-11:30 A.M. @
FIRST UMC



Happy Birthday!

4/5 Nancy Luke
4/6 Judi Perr
4/13 Paul Todd
4/15 Bom Kimberly Ryu
4/19 Beverly Johnson
4/21 Sarah Prout
4/24 Clark Culbertson
4/26 Ethan Ransom
4/29 Jann Glann,
Missy Sprankel



Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, June 6th
12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Sign Up at Redcross.org

Coming in April:
Vision and Heritage
Sunday!
Keep your eyes peeled
for more information.

WORSHIP SCHEDULES

USHERS

4/7 Kathy Kirby, Francesca Lendrum
4/14 Chuck & Cindy Kaman
4/21 Richard & Cynthia Mathews
4/28 Jack & Marcia Arthur

COUNTERS

4/7 Francesca Lendrum & Ellen Drumm
4/14 John & Sarah Blakeman
4/21 Bob & Marcie Muntz
4/28 Jack & Marcia Arthur

Mom's / Caretaker's Lunch

Thank you to all who donated items for our Easter care packages, we were able to donate 20 packages to Kinship Care.



Thank you to Dawn Fleming for organizing the luncheon and the project, and to Ellen Drumm, Sarah Blakeman, and Kathy Kirby for helping with the food!

Eclipse Update

Due to the eclipse, the church office will be closed on Monday, April 8th. With concerns about church parking, the lot will be closed off on Friday, April 5th, opened for worship on Sunday, April 7th, and then closed after worship. It will be open for Christ Community Meals volunteers and attendees only on Monday, April 8th, until 12:00 p.m. After that, we will open the lot to the public for parking.

LITURGISTS

4/7 Janeane Hopkins
4/14 Jack Arthur
4/21 Ann Pullano
4/28 Katie McGraw

COMMUNION, APRIL 7

4/7 Communion Set Up:
Katie McGraw

Servers:

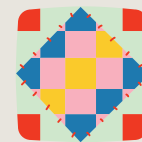
Katie McGraw, Janet Mueller, Cynthia Brown Mathews, Ann Pullano.

FLOWERS

4/7 No Flowers
4/14 Katy McGraw
4/21 No Flowers
4/28 John Bickell

Christ Community Meal

Every Monday at noon
Evening meals are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.
April 10th & 24th at 5:00 p.m.



Our Quilters meet on Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join our quilters!. Don't know who to quilt? They will teach you! So, bring a packed lunch and spend the day in fellowship!



Bell Choir meets every Thursday at 10 a.m.



PRAYER PAGE

THE BIGGEST PRAYER CHALLENGE COMES AFTER WE PRAY, AND WE DON'T SEE OR HEAR ANY RESPONSE. JESUS OFFERS NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHY GOD DELAYS, BUT ONLY THAT HIS DELAY SHOULD NOT BE THE CAUSE OF OUR PRAYERLESSNESS. EVEN WHEN WE THINK GOD IS INDIFFERENT, PRAY ON! (SEE LUKE 18:1) IT MAY BE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE CHANGING BEFORE WE CAN ACCEPT THE ANSWER. IT MAY BE THAT THE ANSWER DEPENDS ON ELSE RESPONDING TO GOD TOO. IT MAY BE THAT THE DELAY IS TO SEE HOW SERIOUSLY WE ARE WILLING TO PRAY, OR, IT SIMPLY MAY BE THAT GOD DESIRES TO GIVE US MORE THAN, OUR SIMPLE REQUEST, MAKING THE ANSWER – ONCE IT IS RECEIVED – ALL THE SWEETER. IF GOD DELAYS ONE SECOND, IT IS BECAUSE HIS WISDOM WANTS THE BEST FOR US.

(FROM A DEVOTION BY WAYNE STILES, READING THE BIBLE LANDS.)

Keep in your prayers...

Anne Russell, the family of Jeanne Schaffer, Judy Hartley, Nancy Mayer, Kristine Welser, Tony Fleming, Pat Marrion, Jon Nikols Jr., Eileen Darby, Eldon Zimmer, Delores Hodsden, Ron Harper, Jackie Metzger, Mike Bork, Sarah McCoy, Ward DeLamatre, 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.

Churches of Huron

4/7 ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4/14 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASTOR SARA HODSDEN

4/21 JOURNEY CHURCH

4/28 CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FATHER MICHAEL FLOYD

Our Military

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



Little Wonders News



In March the Children had a special furry visitor....Huron's K9 Officer, Jax!



HAPPY EASTER!



SESSION NEWS

During our March Session Meeting, the Session heard an update on the work the Transforming Church Initiative work group is doing. Currently, they are looking at our congregation's DNA. What about our history can help us understand our spiritual gifts as a congregation? What is our community telling us about its spiritual needs? How can we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our unique way? In April, the TCI work group will host a "Heritage and Vision Sunday," updating the congregation on its work and exploring emerging themes. Watch your email news for more details on the date.

In 2023, the Presbyterian Church (USA) added new provisions in our Book of Order, which require an anti-harassment and bullying policy and an anti-racism policy in our Manual of Operations. This policy is in this edition of Steeple Notes.

Finally, in light of this new policy, Session wanted to share this reminder from the Session and the Personnel Committee regarding disagreements and issues concerning staff and committee work:

Please remember that our church is a family of fellow servants and believers, and our staff are resources who serve us and assist us in our mission.

Families have many members, and families don't always agree, but we must treat each other with respect and dignity.

Should you ever need to give kudos or share concerns about the church or staff, please contact the appropriate Committee Chair(s) listed below.

FPC HURON SESSION

Rev. Sara Hodsdon, Moderator

Marcia Arthur, Clerk of Session

John Blakeman, Treasurer

Building And Grounds: Doug Quinn

Christian Education: Marcie Muntz, Deb Schippel

Finance: Jack Arthur, Susan Martter

Nurture and Mission: Sarah Blakeman, Ellen Drumm

Personnel: Cynthia Brown Mathews

Stewardship: Francesca Lendrum

Worship: Cynthia Brown Mathews



FPC Huron Anti-Harassment and Anti-Racism Policies

In 2023, the Presbyterian Church (USA) mandated that all congregations include anti-harassment and anti-racism policies in their Manual of Operations. Here is the policy approved by the FPC Huron Session. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sara or Clerk of Session Marcia Arthur.

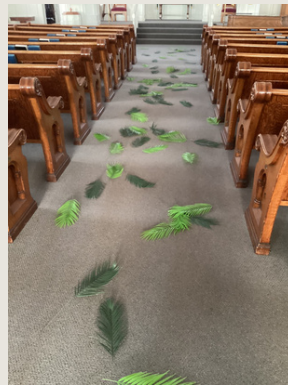
Anti-Racism Policy

- Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against and work against racism. G-3.0106 requires each Council to adopt an anti-racism policy.
 - As a congregation within the PCUSA we will:
 - Seek to welcome and be open to all people (believers)
 - Educate ourselves to seek awareness of our own behavior and biases and the impact on our community of faith and the wider community.
 - Seek resources (curriculum, worship, preaching and music) which are reflective of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Anti-Harassment Policy

- As the Church of Jesus Christ, love is the rule of our relationships.
- Jesus said, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets," (Matt. 7:12), and "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35).
- The Book of Order states, "The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down." (F-1.0301, "The Calling of the Church: the Church is the Body of Christ")
- Because we believe this, and because we seek to live it out in all aspects of our personal and corporate life, we believe that harassment in all its forms is incompatible with who we are as followers of Jesus. Harassment is repeated unwanted behavior, including words or actions that demean, threaten, or humiliate another person.
- Cases of harassment should be brought to the attention of the Moderator, Clerk of Session, or Presbytery Executive.
- Upon the receipt of an accusation of harassment, an effort to bring reconciliation will be made.
- If the harasser continues the harassment, the Session may file disciplinary charges per the Book of Order and Presbytery policy.





Church Scrapbook



April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p>1</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Christ Community Meal</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiting Group</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Christ Community Meal</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00 p.m Christ Community Meal</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiting Group</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Christ Community Meal</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Session</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiting Group</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Poetry Readings</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Christ Community Meal</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00 p.m Christ Community Meal</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiting Group</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Christ Community Meal</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Rummage Sale Drop Off</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 p.m. AA</p>				