



# STEEPLE NOTES

## *From Pastor Sara: How Long?*

It's taken a while, but my son has finally found an apartment of his own. When he first moved to Florida, he was the beneficiary of Gail Burke's hospitality. It took him a couple of months to find lodging he could afford, and he rented a room in a house closer to where he worked. A combination of high housing costs and low housing supply made it nearly impossible for him to find something that was both affordable and decent.

I know he was frustrated with his shoebox. It's not easy to live in someone else's home. I could hear his frustration in our phone conversations, and I would hang up and pray the words of the Psalmist, "How long, O Lord?"

The phrase "How long" appears at least 80 times in the Bible, whether in the Psalms, prophecies, or narratives. King David cried it when he was under siege. Isaiah asked "how long" he must speak.

It's not just humans who want to know how long. About His people, God asked Moses, "How long will these people refuse to keep my

commands?" And when the disciples could not cast out a demon, Jesus said: "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?"

It's only natural to want things to be well and settled. And I think the above Scriptures show it's okay to express a sense of impatience and weariness with a situation. I think it's more than okay.

When we open up the parts of our hearts that hurt to God, he can work on us. If we're impatient about something, he can teach us to be patient and to become more trusting of Him. If we fear something and tell God, he can work in our hearts to let us know he walks with us in our fears. We still might have to wait. We still might have to go through an illness, bankruptcy, or other emotionally challenging situations. But our openness to his healing mercy makes all the difference.

Don't be afraid to ask God, "How long?" He might not give you a timeline, but He will give you the peace to help you wait.



*Thursday, July 4th  
in observance of Independence Day.*

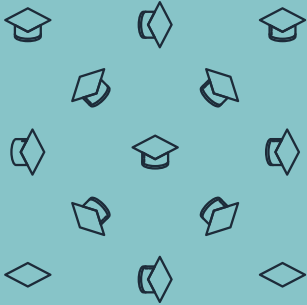
*The next Steeple Notes deadline is  
August 26th.*

*Pastor Vacation and Study Leave  
June 28th-July 2nd  
July 9th-17th  
August 5th-8th  
August 14th-21st*

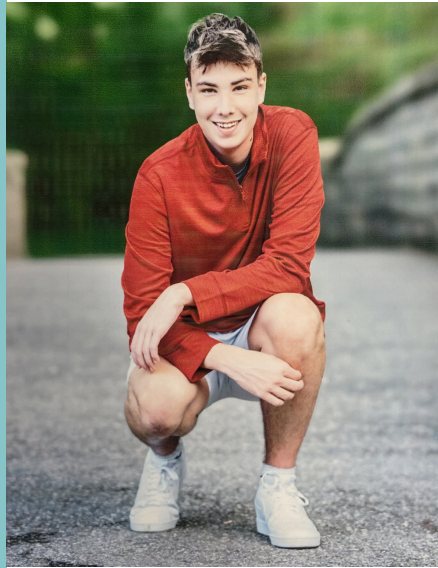
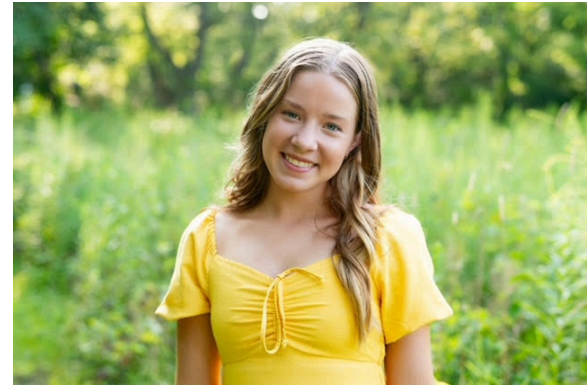
*In Case of Emergency:  
610-955-3075*

You did it!

We celebrate with our church members the recent graduates in their families!



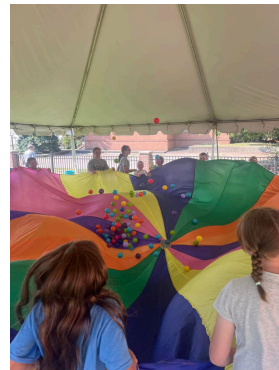
Mackenzie Nevison, daughter of Amy Nevison, graduated from Huron High School. Amy recently portrayed Aurora in the Cynthia Kniffen Dance School's performance of "Sleeping Beauty." She was also a cheerleader and played the flute. She was awarded the Sousa Award and received a Whirlpool Foundation Scholarship. Mackenzie will attend Ohio University to major in Speech Pathology.



Joe Mannion, the grandson of Doug and Karen Brown, graduated from St. Francis De Salles High School in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, June 1st. During his high school years, he participated in traveling soccer teams. He will attend Ohio University, majoring in cybersecurity and computer technology.

# VBS Olympic Fun

The Churches of Huron had a successful Vacation Bible School June 18-20. The theme was "Olympics," and the kids learned about David and Goliath, Deborah, and Jesus walking on water. Special thanks to Gail Burke for being the creative genius behind our crafts, and Marcie Muntz, Sara Hodsden, and Brae Fleming for all of their hard work, too!



Looking for an opportunity to serve Jesus through our congregation?

## Sanctuary Guild

This fall, join the Sanctuary Guild! The guild will ensure that our worship space and its elements (candles, paraments, etc.) are all in season and functioning. It's an easy way to help and is not a huge time commitment. See Cynthia Brown Mathews or Pastor Sara if you want to join the team.



## Little Wonders Chapel & Enrichment

During the Little Wonders school year, we will provide three enrichment activities for our Little Wonders outside of school hours. We will offer a couple of hours of fun educational activities and snacks. See Marcie Muntz or Pastor Sara if you'd like to help. We also need volunteers for Chapel, each Tuesday during the school year. See Pastor Sara for more information.

## Riverfest Parking

Get ready for the Riverfest Parking Lot fundraiser! Riverfest is scheduled for July 12-14. The parking lot will be available for use on Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Each shift lasts only two hours. To participate, sign up in the narthex.



## New Chefs Needed

One of our most well-known ministries is hosting Christ's Community Meals every Monday at noon, and the second and fourth Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. Due to recent volunteer retirements, the ministry could use a few more helping hands to help prep food. Working in the kitchen is lots of fun, and it is so rewarding to help feed the people. Please call Chris Hakeman at 419-656-3436 to find out more.

Serving Christ



# Prayer Page



As the great Victorian preacher C.H. Spurgeon once said, prayer is the rope that rings the bell in the belfry of God. Under God's providence, it unleashes His pattern and plan and power. Cry out to God—that is what Paul is urging us to do. If we want to see the Spirit of God move in a way that can only be described as supernatural, we must first be willing to earnestly, humbly, and continually pray.

So, who do you know who does need your prayers? Will you pray for them—diligently, boldly, and persistently?



## Local Congregation Prayer Calendar

Each week, all churches of Huron pray for one another on a rotating basis. Won't you join us in lifting up our brothers and sisters in Christ?

7/7 First Presbyterian Church: Pastor Sara Hodsdon

7/14 Faith Church

7/21 Christ Episcopal Church: Father Michael Flypd

7/28 St. Peter Catholic Church: Father Doug Garand

8/4 Huron United Methodist Church: Pastor Pamela Sayre

8/11 Zion Lutheran Church: Pastor Katie Suggit

8/18 First Presbyterian Church Pastor Sara Hodsdon

8/25 Faith Church

## Pray for Our Troops

Ben DeLaMatre

Dominic Parisi

Emily Stellpflug

Dan Work



## Prayer Concerns

Mike & Karen Bork, Andrew Muntz, Ward DeLamatre, Pam Heschel, Paul Brown, Mark Crumrine, Harry & Ann Wright, Anne Russell, Kristine Wesler, Pat Marrion, John Nichols, Jr., Eldon Zimmer, Delores Hodsdon, Ron Harper, Jackie Metzger, Mike Bork, Sarah McCoy, Ann West, Tony and Barb Smith, Cameron James, Carol Kopkas, Rachel Leonard, Denny Velliquette, 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, Roger and Barbara Gravlin.

Is our reluctance to pray because of the holiness of God? Or is it because of our inadequacy and unworthiness before Almighty God? Yes, we are sinners and, yes, God is great. But assuredly our confidence in prayer rests in Christ. It is about accessing God's throne through our Great High Priest while He is there pleading for us. We join Christ as He prays for us: He bridges the gap between our humanness and God's almighty holiness. Because we are in Him, our imperfect prayers become acceptable to God our Father, and our prayers are made known in Heaven. Because of Christ's work God is pleased with us and grants us his attention. He delights to hear our prayers through His Son, and Jesus is always heard because He asks perfectly. Thus, we should draw near to Christ and pray confidently for anything, being thankful for everything from His hand. As Robert Murray M'Cheyne said: "If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million of enemies. Yet the distance makes no difference; he is praying for me." Nothing could be more comforting!

## Do You Have a Heart for Prayer?

**Join our prayer ministry! Our next prayer meetings are in the parlor on Monday, July 8 and Monday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m. Email or call the church office to connect with the prayer ministry.**

Are you or someone you love in need of prayer? Please contact Pastor Sara, or leave your prayer request in the prayer box in the parlor.

# Session Notes

The session met on Wednesday, June 17th. In our devotional, we studied the story of David and Goliath. When David volunteered to go into battle against Goliath, King Saul tried to put his armor on David. It didn't fit. David wasn't a soldier; he was a shepherd. God equipped David for the battle in his own way, and David trusted God. As we continue our TCI work, we discern how God equips us for our ministry. Like David, we shouldn't wear armor that doesn't fit us. Instead, we rejoice in who God made us to be, and live into it, sharing the Gospel in ways that only we can.

In other business, the session approved a motion from the Worship Committee to create a Sanctuary Guild, heard an update on the fall stewardship campaign, and discussed the possibility of adding an overhead microphone so that the choir can be better heard on the live stream. The session will meet next on August 28th at 6:30 p.m.

## Huron Prayer Path News

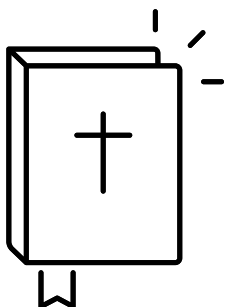
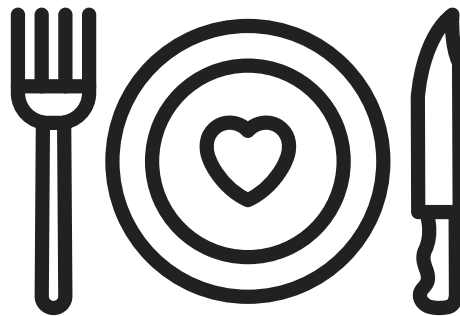


**Jammin' With Jesus:** Wednesday, July 17th at 7:00 p.m., at the Christian Life Center behind Zion Lutheran Church. Bring your instruments and jam in this one-hour jam session, or just come for fun!

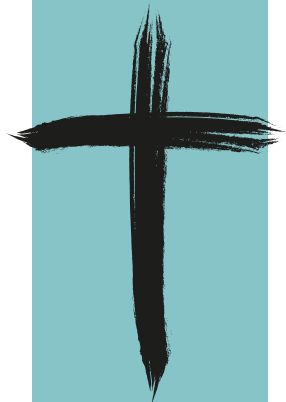
**Car Wash:** Time TBA on Saturday, July 27th at the United Methodist Church.

## Ladies Who Lunch

Mark your calendars for the Ladies Who Lunch event at the Pier Pub on Friday, July 12th at 11:30 a.m. In August, there will be a Ladies Who Lunch dinner event with the date and time to be announced later.



*Coming this Fall: Adult Bible Study.*  
*If you are interested, please go to*  
*Survey Monkey to share your preferences at*  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTZSJM6>



*Serving Schedules*

# July Communion

Date	Prep	Servers
July 7	Katy McGraw	Katy McGraw, Marcie Muntz, Bob Muntz, John Bickell

# July Liturgists

July 7: Phillip Hopkins
July 14: Ann Pullano
July 21: Katy McGraw
July 28: Marcie Muntz

# July Ushers

# July Counters

July 7: Janet Mueller and Francesca Lendrum	July 7: Ellen Drumm and Francesca Lendrum
July 14: Chuck and Cindy Kaman	July 14: John and Sarah Blakeman
July 21: Cynthia Brown Mathews and Rick Mathews	July 21: Bob and Marcie Muntz
July 28: Jack and Marcia Arthur	July 28: Jack and Marcia Arthur

# July Flowers

July 7: Kathy Kirby, in honor of Megan Kirby Bauman's birthday.
July 14: Jann Glann, in memory of Frank Glann.
July 21: Gail Burke and family, in memory of Terry Burke.
July 28: Jann Glann and Kerry Glann, in celebration of John's birthday.



*Serving Schedules*



# August Communion

Date	Prep	Servers
August 4	Sarah Blakeman	Sarah Blakeman, Chuck Kaman, Cindy Kaman, Gail Burke

## August Liturgists

August 4: Janet Mueller
August 11: Wendy Quinn
August 18: Jack Arthur
August 25: Chuck Kaman

## August Ushers

## August Counters

August 4: Phillip Hopkins and Kitty Cunningham	August 4:
August 11: Marcie Muntz and Betty Reed	August 11:
August 18: Anne and Don Russell	August 18:
August 25: Kathy Kirby and Patti Smith	August 25:

## August Flowers

August 4: Katy McGraw
August 11: Patti Smith
August 18: Doug and Wendy Quinn
August 25: Kathy Kirby

Eileen Darby joined the First Presbyterian Church in 1950, making her time here 74 years.  
We said goodbye to Eileen at her memorial service on June 25th. Thank you to the Presbyterian Women and Nurture and Mission for providing a meal to the Darby family. As part of the celebration, Rev. George Bell wrote a poem. Here it is:

The Colors of Magic  
- Dedicated to Eileen Darby and her family -

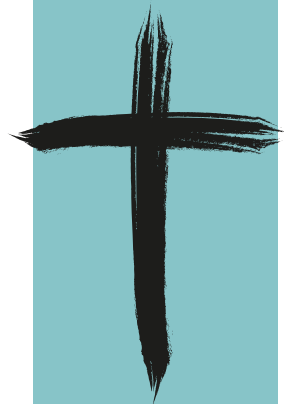
I hate to say goodbye. yet today, another is required  
As Eileen graduates and moves on.  
As the front door of my mind opens and I come to this place,  
I see, again, the beautiful colors of her magic!  
I felt them in the moments we experienced together,  
Colored with hugs, tears, encouragement, and pats on the back,  
Enhanced by the fireworks of joy and laughter.  
Now, with reverence, we process the stories we share  
As they float by us like wispy clouds over life's mountain tops.  
In this holy moment, her gifts sparkle with the rays of noon.  
We sip on the golden colors of her sunrises and sunsets.  
It's like we are in the middle of magic echoes  
That bounce off the canyons of our memories.  
Saying goodbye at death is designed by nature's ways  
To exploit every sensuous human thought and feeling!  
In some ways, our grief is like being totally unprepared  
Even though we know our lives are choreographed  
For this graceful transition from the known to the unknown.  
The mystery and magic of this mother's life is over now!  
She imprinted indelible stories on the wall of our hearts.  
Yet the chimes of the grandfather clock remind us to move on.  
So we unwrap poems she wrote and cards she painted,  
Carefully reviewing each with reverent thanksgiving!  
I think goodbyes are like colorful kernels of grain.  
Each has many surprising potentials and powers.  
They come in warm reds, blues, and yellows.  
Together, they can be ground into the powerful flour of love  
That can become dough, which can rise into magical new forms!

This goodbye helps us celebrate what it means to be human.  
To live life in full measure as our Creator intends it to be.  
It mixes smiles, laughter, thanksgiving, and hope!  
It is seasoned with prayer, scripture, shades of pain, and tears!  
It explodes with bursts of joy as we listen to God's promises.

Eileen quietly passed on! Memory! Shock! Grief! Celebration!  
It's like we are walking by still waters, as the Psalmist did,  
Like listening to the mystic voices of Christmas angels,  
Singing hallelujah songs to shepherds in the field,  
Like looking forward to a place with many mansions, as Jesus did!  
This caring, talented mother, wife, and friend moved on,  
To merge with her new family in God's grand beyond!

George L. Bell  
June 18, 2024

Remembering Eileen





# SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming Celebration and Family Reunion:  
Sunday, September 8  
Food, Fellowship, Fun!



Eileen Darby dressed this doll in a replica of the outfit she wore at her ordination as an Elder.

## Preaching Notes

Our Psalm Roadtrip Playlist sermon series continues in July and August, with a few interruptions for Pastor Sara's vacation absences. If you would like to read ahead, here are the remaining Psalms we will study:  
July 7: Psalm 51, A Psalm of Lament  
July 21: Psalm 30, A Psalm of Thanksgiving  
July 28: Psalm 107, A Psalm of Thanksgiving  
August 4: Psalm 46, A Psalm of Trust  
August 11: Psalm 121, A Psalm of Trust

Special thanks to Jann Glann and Janeane Hopkins who are filling the pulpit while Pastor Sara is out of town:

Sunday, June 30th: A Hymn and Music Service on Freedom 10:00 a.m  
Sunday, July 14th: Guest Preacher Janeane Hopkins



### ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In the final poem of Psalms, what musical instrument is mentioned as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



Answer: E (See Psalm 150:3-5.)

**Steeple Notes will return in September.  
Have a great summer!**



# July 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	<b>2</b> 7 AA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Closed 8 p.m. AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	<b>8</b> 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	<b>9</b> 7 AA	<b>10</b> 5 p.m. Community Meal	<b>11</b> 8 p.m. AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	<b>15</b> 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	<b>16</b> 7 AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8 p.m. AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	<b>22</b> 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	<b>23</b> 7 AA	<b>24</b> 5 p.m. Community Meal	<b>25</b> 8 p.m. AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	<b>29</b> 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	<b>30</b> 7 AA	<b>31</b>			

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8 p.m. AA	2	3
4 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	5 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	6 7 AA	7	8 8 p.m. AA	9	10
11 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	12 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	13 7 AA	14 5 p.m. Community Meal	15 8 p.m. AA	16	17
18 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	19 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	20 7 AA	21	22 8 p.m. AA	23	24
25 10 Worship 11 Fellowship Hour	26 12 Community Meal 7 Scouts	27 7 AA	28 5 p.m. Community Meal	29	30	31