

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HURON  
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## STEEPLENOTES

### A Message From Pastor Sara (an excerpt from the sermon from 12/1/24)

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers had it right.  
 "The waiting is the hardest part."

If you're a Cleveland sports fan, you know how it goes--the waiting, waiting for next year, the coaching change, and the next quarterback drafted. As a Buckeyes fan, I want to avoid getting into our waiting for another year.

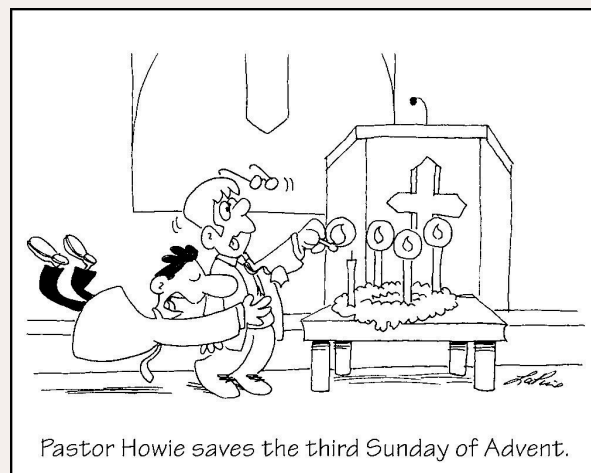
We don't like waiting, and we're getting worse at waiting—myself included. Have a pause in a conversation? We check our phones for an email or a text message. Did you send a text message? We're waiting, waiting for those little dots to stop flickering and for a response to your message. Yesterday, I was waiting for gas at Sam's Club. It felt like half an hour, but I checked, and it was only three minutes.

We need to learn to wait. If we don't, what happens when we find ourselves in a position where we have no choice but to wait—after a knee replacement surgery, waiting until the doctor says we can go back to normal activities, waiting for that all-important appointment to confirm what was discovered in an MRI.

We need strength to wait. A Presbyterian Pastor named Ben Patterson saw how our culture was growing increasingly intolerant of waiting and

wrote a book, appropriately titled, "Waiting." He wrote: "At least as important as the things we wait for is the work God wants to do in us as we wait... Picture a blazing hot forge and a piece of gold thrust into it to be heated until all that is impure and false is burnt out. As it is heated, it is also softened and shaped by the metalworker. Our faith is the gold; our suffering is the fire. The forge is the waiting: it is the tension and longing and, at times, anguish of waiting for God to keep his promises."

That's the inspiration for this Advent series: Into the Forge. As we look back to the waiting Israel endured as they waited for the Messiah, and our present waiting for Jesus to return and restore all of creation, we explore different ways God can shape us and mold us as we go into this forge. Hopefully, we will all learn to wait together, and allow God to do His work in us. I hope you can join us this Advent!



Pastor Howie saves the third Sunday of Advent.



## Remembrance Tree

During the Advent season in 2015, 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 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 the following years. (The ornament need not represent a death that occurred in the past year.) We encourage anyone who would like to add an ornament/s to bring the ornament and place it on the tree at anytime, drop off the ornament in Office or Choir Room, OR contact office or Jann (440-452-6115) to make arrangements to place the ornament/s for or with you. Please write the name of the person "remembered" on the ornament itself, or attach a small tag with the name. Consider an ornament that reminds you of, or is 'characteristic' of the person/s if you so choose. (The tree now holds ornaments as varied as ....angels, fishing tackles, footballs, bells, chalk boards, tea cups, birds, sewing materials, lighthouses, and the like!). During the morning Worship Service on December 22nd, there will be included a brief 'Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remembrance Time' each year the ornaments are packed away in a safe spot so they can be returned to the tree the following Advent. (Feel free to contact Jann Glann at the above number if you have questions.)

## Worship Through Music Service December 22nd, 10 a.m. Worship Hour

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 !! As it will be the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the theme of JOY is appropriate for this service. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS...There's plenty of room in our 'Inn!'



## 11 p.m. Christmas Eve: Candlelight Service

Please join us for the traditional 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Reflection and Meditation, Lessons, and Carols. Special music from the Chancel Choir, Friends, and Soloists will be included. 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!!!

# PRAYER PAGE

“Paul stresses that we can take everything to God in prayer. As it has been beautifully put: “There is nothing too great for God’s power; and nothing too small for his fatherly care.” We can bring our prayers, our supplications and our requests to God; we can pray for ourselves. We can pray for forgiveness for the past, for the things we need in the present, and for help and guidance for the future. We can take our own past and present and future into the presence of God. We can pray for others. We can commend to God’s care those near and far who are within our memories and our hearts.

And every prayer must surely include thanks for the great privilege of prayer itself. Paul insists that we must give thanks in everything, in sorrows and in joys alike. That implies two things. It implies gratitude and also perfect submission to the will of God. It is only when we are fully convinced that God is working all things together for good that we can really feel to him the perfect gratitude which believing prayer demands.”

–William Barclay

## LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR

### PRAYER CONCERNS

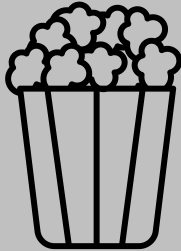
Mackenzie Marsh, Kristine Welser,  
Dr. Pfahl, Ward DeLamatre,  
Pam Heschel, Paul Brown,  
Mark Crumrine, Harry and  
Ann Wright, Pat Marrion,  
John Nichols, Jr., Eldon Zimmer,  
Delores Hodsden, Ron Harper,  
Jackie Metzger, Mike and  
Karen Bork, Sarah McCoy,  
Ann West, Cameron James,  
Carol Kopkas, Denny Velliquette,  
June Franduto, Paul Brown,  
Brad Mason, 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.

- 12/1 St. Peter Catholic Church Father Doug Garand
- 12/8 Huron United Methodist Church Pastor Pamela Sayre
- 12/15 Zion Lutheran Church
- 12/22 First Presbyterian Church Pastor Sara Hodsden
- 12/29 Salvation Army





# Pack and Troop 31 News



## Popcorn and Syrup Fundraiser

Need some stocking stuffers? Pack 31 will be selling popcorn, maple syrup, and meat sticks after church on Sunday, December 8th. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted. Thank you for your support for Pack 31!

## Scout Spaghetti Dinner



Don't Miss the Scout's Spaghetti Dinner!

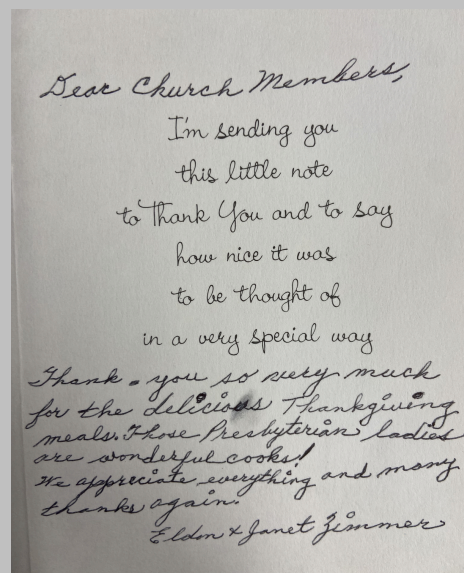
Join Troop 31 for a delicious spaghetti dinner on Friday, December 6th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll be serving up a hearty meal of spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert.

Dine-in or carry-out options are available. Adults are \$10.00, and children are \$7.00.

All proceeds benefit the Scouts. We hope to see you there!



## Thank you!



# SCHEDULES

## December Communion

12/1 Communion

Set up: Gail Burke

Servers: Gail Burke, Chuck Kaman,  
Cindy Kaman, John Bickell

## December Liturgists

12/1 Cynthia Mathews

12/8 Janet Mueller

12/15 Jack Arthur

12/22 No Liturgist

12/24 Janeane Hopkins

12/29 Phillip Hopkins



## December Ushers

12/1 Marcie Muntz & Betty Reed

12/8 Don & Anne Russell

12/15 Kathy Kirby & Patti Smith

12/22 Janet Mueller & Francesca

Lendrum

12/29 Churck & Cindy Kaman



## December Counters

12/1 Francesca Lendrum & Ellen Drumm

12/8 Bob & Marcie Muntz

12/15 Jack & Marcia Arthur

12/22 John & Sarah Blakeman

12/29 Churck & Cindy Kaman



## Worship Schedule FOR CHRISTMAS



12/22 -- 10 a.m. - Music Sunday

12/24 -- 11 p.m. Christmas Service



## Holiday Office Hours

### Church Office

12/23- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

12/24 - closed

12/25 - Closed: Merry Christmas

12/26 - Closed

12/27-12/29- closed

12/30 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

12/31 - closed

1/1 - Closed Happy New Year

1/2 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

1/3-1/5 - closed

1/6 Return to normal office hours



# Celebrations



## *Happy Birthday*

- 12/2 Chris Hakeman
- 12/7 Karen Brown
- 12/16 Jeanne Smith
- 12/20 Betty Reed
- 12/22 Jung Hung Marty Ryu
- 12/24 Edwina Chamberlin
- 12/25 Carol Johnson, Katy Mischler
- 12/29 Sharon Velliquette
- 12/31 Kitty Cunningham



## *Flowers*

- 12/1 Gail Burke, in remembrance of loved ones.
- 12/8 Ellen Drum, in honor of our church family,
- 12/15 Pat & Mark Koch, in memory of Pat's mom.  
Ruth Marsh, in honor of her birthday.  
Jann Glann, in memory of Frank.
- 12/22 Katy McGraw, remembering and honoring  
John & Dot Kieser that were married in this  
church Dec. 20th.



# Ladies Who Lunch

Joy to the world, the December Ladies Who Lunch will meet on December 13th at 11:30 at the Huron Yacht Club.

Please let Dawn in the office or Marcie Muntz know if you plan to have a holly jolly afternoon with us!

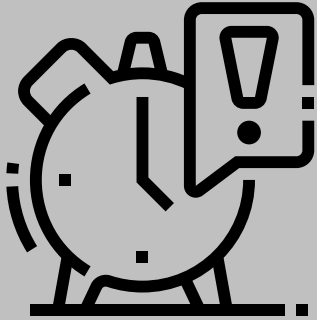
We look forward to seeing all your merry and bright faces on the 13th!

After lunch, we will meet at Kathy Kirby's house for dessert!



## Little Wonders Fundraiser

Little Wonders Preschool Dine to Donate. Wednesday, December 18th. At Jim Pizza Box in Huron, all day long. . Be sure to mention Little Wonders preschool!



## Year End Giving Deadlines

Remember--to make sure your giving meets the 2024 tax deadline, all gifts must be postmarked, electronically transferred, or given to the church office no later than 11:59 p.m. on December 31st, 2024.

To check your giving, go to [www.churchtrac.com](http://www.churchtrac.com), and log in. You can see your 2024 giving statement. If there are any errors, please contact the church office. Thank you for your generosity!



*Filled by the Spirit, we fill the Church*

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

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generosity in 2024, and your pledges for 2025!

# Little Wonders Preschool



## November Highlights

Our Little Wonders had visits from the librarian  
Many birthday celebrations!  
They made turkeys for Thanksgiving.  
They started practicing for their upcoming Christmas program  
Their fall Break took place from November 25th to December 2nd.  
They continue to enjoy big play in the fellowship hall.  
They also look forward to Chapel time with Pastor Sara.



## Thank you!!!

Thank you to everyone who supported their first fundraiser at Huron Pizza House! Their next dine-to-donate will be ALL day on Wednesday, December 18th, at Jim's Pizza Box.

## Upcoming

Little Wonders Family & Friends are invited to attend their annual Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 p.m in the sanctuary. The program will also be live streamed!



Polar Express Day. A day to wear their pajamas to school and watch polar express!



Christmas Break: December 22nd to January 6th.