



Steeple Notes

JANUARY 2026



A Message From Pastor Sara

January holds two truths at once.

On the one hand, it feels like a fresh start. New calendars, blank pages, resolutions, hopes for what might be different this time around. On the other hand, January can feel heavy. The decorations are put away, the days are cold and dark, and life looks much the same as it did in December—with its joys and its challenges still firmly in place.

The good news is that God works in both places.

Scripture reminds us that God is always doing a new thing—not only in moments of excitement and energy, but also in quiet persistence, steady faithfulness, and small acts of love that add up over time. As the prophet Isaiah declares,

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”
(Isaiah 43:19)

And even more tenderly, we are reminded that God’s mercies meet us again and again, day by day:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Not new every January 1st, but every morning.

As a congregation, we enter this new year with deep gratitude for what has been—and with trust in the God who will walk with us into whatever lies ahead. We don’t need to have everything figured out. We don’t need perfect plans or flawless resolutions. What we need is the willingness to keep showing up: to worship, to pray, to serve, to care for one another, and to tend to the hearts and souls of our neighbors.

May this January be a season not just of new beginnings, but of renewed trust in the God who makes all things new, one faithful step at a time.



Prayer Page



Happy 2026! Does it feel like life is passing by entirely too fast? Where did 2025 go? We hear this from just about everyone we talk to at this time of year, whether young or old. Is time really going faster? I can't figure it out. But I can cling to the promise that God is with us and all goes according to His plan.

We do have to cooperate, however, and out of gratitude obey His commandments if we expect to have his blessings. And we are commanded to pray no matter what. So let's make 2026 another year of prayer: prayers for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our country and our world. We can't stop the world from turning and the days and months from passing, but we can pray for peace. Peace in our own souls, peace for our loved ones, and peace in our world. And, just like for Jesus (Luke 3:21), prayer will be for us the key that opens the Heavens, that we may take out of God's treasury Mercy and Grace for ourselves, for our loved ones and for our world! Happy New Year!

Please pray for....

Jennifer Kelley, Angie Kwok, David Andrews (Gail Burke's Son-in-Law), Jon Nikols, Fr. Steve Taylor, Steve Kuhl, John Van Meter, Brian Goff, Bob Ashcraft, The Family of Rev. Mike Leonard, Rita Phillips, Larry Klaiber, Zac, The family of Thomas Litz, Mackenzie Marsh, Kristine Welser, Pam Heschel, Paul Brown, Harry Wright, Eldon Zimmer, Ron Harper, Jackie Metzger, Sarah McCoy, Ann West, Carol Kopkas, Kerry Lynn, Marla Pederson, David Claxton, Nick LaFace, Rev. Clair Brewer, Roberta Leimbach, and Billie Urie.



Pray for our Military...

Ben DeLamatre, and Emily Stellplug

Huron Churches Prayer Calendar....

1-4	First Presbyterian Church	Pastor Sara Hodsdon
1-11	Salvation Army	
1-18	Christ Episcopal Church	Father Michael Floyd
1-25	St. Peter Catholic Church	Father Doug Garand

What's Happening

Ladies Who Lunch

January's Ladies Who Lunch will be on Friday, January 9th, at 11:30 a.m. at Olive Garden Rt 250 in Sandusky.

Christ Community Meals

Our church hosts the Christ's Community Meals ministry every Monday at noon, and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Anyone who wants a meal, or just wants companionship for a meal, is welcome!

Session News

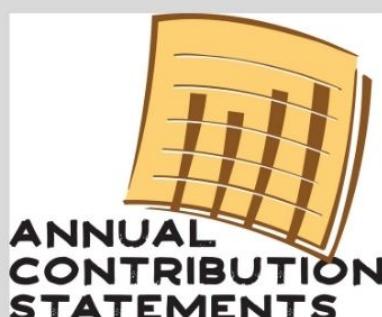
We've engaged a new company to clear our parking lot and to shovel and salt the sidewalks and pathways. They are doing an excellent job!

We express our gratitude to our retiring session elders of 2025: Ellen Drumm, Sarah Blakeman, and Doug Quinn.

We warmly welcome our new session elders for the class of 2028: Katy McGraw, John Bickel, Stee Koenig, and Deb Schippe (serving a second term).

Additionally, Jann Glann and Katy McGraw have been honored with their 50th anniversary membership pins.

Next meeting: January 21st at 6:30 p.m.



ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, January 18th, after worship

Where: Fellowship Hall

Come review 2025, and look ahead to 2026 with us. We will serve brunch immediately after worship, and convene the meeting after brunch.

All committee reports for 2025 are due in the church office no later than Tuesday, January 13th at noon. Thank you!



Monday, January 19th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Thursday, February 19th
1:00-6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Sign up at Redcross.org

Annual Contribution Statements will be emailed to those who have email addresses and mailed to those without by January 31st. You may also download a statement at any time by following these instructions:

- Go to <https://fpchuron.churchtrac.com>
- Log In using your email and password. Please contact the church office if you are having difficulty with this.
- Look for a "Giving" or "Reports" section, select "Contribution Statement," set your date range (e.g., a specific year), and click to view/print the PDF.

Worship News

New Worship Initiative

As part of our strategic initiatives, First Presbyterian Church of Huron is discerning whether God may be calling us to offer a new alternative worship service. This service would not replace our current worship but would provide an additional opportunity for people in our community to gather, pray, and praise God, potentially using jazz and other popular music forms as part of the worship. We are forming a small team to help with prayerful discernment, imagination, and exploration of this possibility. If you are interested in participating in this conversation, please contact Pastor Sara, Jann Glann, Cynthia Brown Mathews, or Steve Koenig.



You are invited to join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, February 18, at 12:00 p.m. This quiet, reflective service will mark the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of prayer, repentance, and renewed trust in God's grace. The service will include the imposition of ashes as a tangible reminder of our mortality and our hope in Christ.



All current and prospective ushers are invited to a brief Usher Training on Sunday, January 25, held immediately following the worship service. This refresher will review the basics of welcoming, assisting, and caring for those who come to worship—helping ensure that our hospitality reflects Christ's love for all.

The training will take no more than 15 minutes, and is a great opportunity both for experienced ushers and for anyone interested in serving in this important ministry. Your presence makes a difference in how people experience worship from the moment they enter our doors.

Sanctuary Guild

The Sanctuary Guild helps care for the visual and worship elements of our sanctuary, ensuring that the space reflects the seasons of the church year and is ready to welcome all who come to worship. Responsibilities include tending to banners and paraments according to the liturgical calendar, as well as checking pew supplies such as pencils, prayer cards, and envelopes. Guidance and resources are provided, and help is always available if questions arise.

If you enjoy behind-the-scenes service and have an eye for detail, we invite you to consider joining the Sanctuary Guild. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex, and we would be delighted to welcome new members to this meaningful ministry.



One of the joys of church life is walking alongside our Confirmation students as they explore the foundations of Christian faith and what it means to follow Jesus in their own lives. This year, we will have a Confirmation Class beginning in late January. Students will gather several times for lunch with Pastor Sara and a Mentor Elder to build relationships and learn about the church's leadership and life. And each month, students will participate directly in an aspect of our congregation's ministry, gaining hands-on experience in how faith is lived out through service, worship, and community life.

If you know anyone in middle school or above who might enjoy our confirmation class, please let Pastor Sara know at pastorfpchuron@bex.net.



When we deliberate, God reigns;
When we decide wisely, God reigns;
When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns —
The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

— William Temple
at the Lamberth Conference, 1930

Schedules

Happy Birthday

- 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
- 1-20 Scott Ranson
- 1-23 Bethany Schippe
- 1-26 Sheri Ransom
- 1-29 Rachel Pratt

Liturgists

- 1-4 Betty Reed
- 1-11 Owen Fleming
- 1-18 Steve Koenig
- 1-25 Janet Mueller

Ushers

- 1-4 Kathy Kirby & Deb Schippe
- 1-11 Chuck & Cindy Kaman
- 1-18 Cynthia & Richard Mathews
- 1-25 Jack & Marcia Arthur



Flowers

- 1-18 Mark and Pat Koch, in celebration of Pat's Mom and Dad's wedding anniversary

Communion 1-4

Communion Set Up: Cindy Kaman

Servers: Cindy Kaman, Chuck Kaman, Francesca Lendum, Chris Hakeman

Counters

- 1-4 Ellen Drumm, Francesca Lendum
- 1-11 Chuck & Cindy Kaman
- 1-18 Bob & Marcie Muntz
- 1-25 Jack & Marcia Arthur

Inclement Weather Policy

To ensure the safety and comfort of everyone, the FPC Huron Session adheres to the recommendations of the Erie County Sheriff's Department. Cancellations and postponements are determined by the snow emergency levels, outlined as follows:

Level One: All church activities proceed as planned.

Level Two: Worship services continue as scheduled; however, all other activities are cancelled or postponed.

Level Three: All activities are cancelled or postponed.

If school is cancelled or delayed, church office hours may be affected.

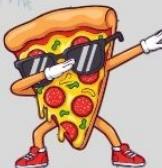
Please consult our Facebook page for up-to-date closings and cancellations.

Little Wonders Preschool

This month, the children will learn all about snow and ice.

They will enjoy a "snowball" fight.

They will also learn all about space, and learn all about the planets in our solar system.



Dine to Donate

The first dine to donate will be at Jim's Pizza Box on Tuesday, January 13th. They will be open for lunch and dinner, dine - in or carry-out. A portion of all sales will be donated back to Little Wonders that day only!



December Re-Cap

December was a very busy month for the children. They learned new Christmas songs, performed their annual Christmas program, enjoyed hot cocoa while watching polar express on pajama day, and they ended with a Christmas party before their 2 week Christmas break!

