



Steeple Notes

February 2026

Grace Like Snow

(This is an abridged version of the sermon from Sunday, January 25th.)

Last Sunday's Scripture from Isaiah offered a striking promise from God: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow." Snow gives us a way to imagine what grace looks like. When it falls, the world is suddenly quieter. Familiar places look different—covered, softened, changed.

Snow doesn't erase what lies beneath it. Cracks remain. Broken places are still there. And yet everything is transformed. In the same way, God's grace does not pretend we are flawless. Instead, through Jesus Christ, grace covers us—meeting us where we are, before we have ourselves figured out.

Snow also reveals truth. Footprints become visible. Paths are clearer. Grace works this way too—not hiding our lives from us, but helping us see them more honestly and more gently. And snow does not last forever. It melts into the ground, nourishing what will grow next. Grace is not meant to freeze us in place; it prepares us for new life.

In seasons when we feel tired, guilty, or stuck, snow reminds us that rest is holy, forgiveness is real, and stillness is not the same as death. Beneath what looks cold and dormant, God is already at work.

May we receive God's grace the way the earth receives snow—quietly, openly, and with hope for what will grow when the season changes.

Bible Quiz

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

A. Babylon; the Assyrians
B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
C. Rome; the Greeks
D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans



Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

What's Happening



Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, February 19th, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
in the fellowship hall. You can sign up at
redcross.org.

Let Sarah Blakeman know if you want to
share homemade treats for our Blood
Drive ministry.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent—a time of prayer, reflection, and return to God. We invite you to join us for a noon worship service on Wednesday, February 18, featuring Scripture, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. In this ancient and meaningful practice, we remember our mortality, our need for grace, and the hope of renewal God offers us in Jesus Christ. All are welcome as we begin the Lenten journey together.



USHER TRAINING

Our January usher training was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 8, immediately following worship. This brief training is for current ushers and anyone who is interested in serving in this role. We'll review basic responsibilities, hospitality practices, and procedures for worship services. If you're already an usher or would like to learn more about helping welcome and assist others on Sunday mornings, we hope you'll join us.



Our Confirmation Class will begin in February, offering youth an opportunity to explore faith, build relationships, and learn more about the life of the church. Throughout the spring, confirmants will gather for shared lunches with the pastor and mentor elders, participate in several ministry and committee experiences, and reflect together on what it means to belong to the church and live out their faith. The class will conclude later in the spring, when confirmants will have the opportunity to affirm their baptism and be welcomed by the congregation.



This Lent, we invite you to join us for a five-week study built around the classic film Casablanca. Using the resource A Beautiful Friendship, we'll watch a portion of the movie and explore themes at the heart of the Lenten journey: sacrifice, repentance, suffering, loss, and hope. Set against the backdrop of war and moral complexity, Casablanca offers a powerful lens through which to reflect on faith, courage, and costly love in a broken world.

Each Tuesday evening, we'll begin with soup and fellowship, then watch and discuss a portion of the film using guided questions, Scripture, reflections, and prayer. No prior knowledge of the movie is required—just come ready for thoughtful conversation and meaningful connection as we journey toward Easter together.

First Responder Sunday



On First Responder Sunday, we will give thanks for the men and women who serve our community with courage, skill, and compassion. During worship, we will offer prayers for Kevin McGraw, who is beginning his service as Fire Chief of Huron, and for all first responders throughout the City of Huron, Erie County, and across Ohio—firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, dispatchers, and all who place themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. We invite the congregation to join us in prayer as we seek God's protection, strength, and wisdom for those who answer the call to serve.



On Sunday, February 8, we will give thanks for God's call to leadership in the life of our congregation as we install new and returning elders. During worship, we will pray for and commission John Bickell, Steve Koenig, Katy McGraw, and Deb Schippel as they begin or continue their service on Session.

Elders play a vital role in the spiritual leadership, care, and governance of the church, and Installation Sunday is an opportunity for the whole congregation to offer prayer, encouragement, and support. Please plan to join us in worship as we celebrate these leaders and ask God's blessing on their ministry among us.



"Be my valentine Be my valentine
Be my valentine"



Scout Sunday is a special opportunity to celebrate the partnership between our church and Pack 31 and Troop 31, for whom we are proud to serve as the charter organization. Scouting plays an important role in shaping young people through values such as service, leadership, integrity, and care for others—values that closely reflect our faith and our calling as a church.

During worship, we give thanks for the Scouts, leaders, and families of Pack 31 and Troop 31, and we recognize the many ways Scouting encourages young people to grow in character and responsibility. We are grateful for the commitment of Scout leaders who give their time and energy to mentor and guide youth, and for the families who support this important work.

As a charter organization, our congregation provides a home for Pack 31 and Troop 31, and in return, Scouts contribute to the life of our church and community through service projects, leadership, and participation in worship. Scout Sunday is a reminder of this shared ministry and a chance for the congregation to offer prayers and encouragement for all who are part of Scouting.

Please join us in welcoming our Scouts to worship and in giving thanks for this meaningful partnership.



Owen, a valued member of our congregation, is facing serious health challenges, including memory loss, and is currently vulnerable after moving away. He has been a dedicated caregiver during his family's struggles with Alzheimer's and dementia. Following the loss of his girlfriend, he is experiencing housing instability and staying with friends. His family is working to secure stable housing and medical support. A GoFundMe has been set up to help with these immediate needs. Any assistance or prayers for Owen and his family are greatly appreciated.

[GoFundMe link]
(<https://gofund.me/cdd08c187>)



Ladies Who Lunch

Ladies Who Lunch is headed to Firelands Winery on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a fun Galentine's Day-themed gathering filled with good conversation, laughter, and a few games to celebrate friendship. You're encouraged to preview the menu ahead of time, and please know that enjoying wine is not required—all are welcome whether you sip, snack, or simply enjoy the company.

To reserve your spot, please contact the church office at 419-433-5018. We'd love to see you there!



Join the Sanctuary Guild

The Sanctuary Guild prepares and maintains the worship space year-round, changing banners and keeping the sanctuary orderly for Sunday services. This flexible, behind-the-scenes role doesn't require a weekly commitment. If you like hands-on work and want to help facilitate worship, consider joining the Guild. Sign up in the narthex or contact Sara or Jann for details.



Living without God is likened to a nearly completed jigsaw puzzle missing pieces. Blaise Pascal noted that a "God-shaped vacuum" exists in every person, filled only by God through Jesus Christ. St. Augustine emphasized that true rest is found in God. The Old Testament writer of Ecclesiastes discussed the futility of earthly pursuits. Jesus stated in John 10:10 that He provides life in fullness, offering comfort and fulfillment as our Savior.

Prayer Page

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

With the invention of smartphones and these (often anti-social) social media apps, we can now be distracted and ignore the reality in front of our faces at any given moment of every single day. Many have lost the art of communication because there really is no need to actually talk (aloud) to people anymore. We text instead of calling. We use emojis instead of an emotional face-to-face conversation. We post "Insta" updates instead of waiting to share family news in person, especially with close friends and family members. I strongly dislike finding out essential things through Facebook first, don't you? And I am so guilty of these things and struggle every day to limit my screen time. Am I so connected to my devices that I am neglecting to connect with the Lord? How much time am I spending on my phone? I wonder if this is the huge reason my prayer life sometimes seems like it is on life support. We can't text God. He wants to hear from us. Prayer is personal because the Father longs to have a personal relationship with His children. He wants us to come to Him constantly with our concerns, burdens, joys, and requests as our verse says. The distractions are endless throughout the day, and it's easier for us to turn to our phones instead of turning to God. So every time we are tempted to pick up our phone, let us ask the Lord to help us throw off the distractions that would keep us from Him, and talk to Him in prayer instead.

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 Stellpflug

HURON CHURCHES PRAYER CALENDAR

2-1 Huron United Methodist Church
Pastor Pamela Sayre
2-8 Zion Lutheran Church
2-15 First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Sara Hodsdon
2-22 Salvation Army



Dates & Schedules

Happy Birthday

- 2/8 Lauren Mueller Schultz
- 2/10 Thomas Work
- 2/14 Doug Brown
- 2/18 John Arthur
- 2/22 Patti Smith
- 2/25 Deb Schippel, Witmer Symmonds, Ann Wright
- 2/26 Jenny Hagy, Phillip Hopkins

Liturgists

- 2/1 Scout Participants
- 2/8 Amy Nevison
- 2/15 Phillip Hopkins
- 2/22 Sarah Blakeman

Ushers

- 2/1 Phillip & Kitty
- 2/8 Jack & Marcia
- 2/15 Chuck & Cindy
- 2/22 Kathy & Francesca

Sanctuary Guild for February

Sarah Blakeman

*Mark
YOUR
Calendar*

Flowers

- 2/1 Mark & Pat Koch, in honor of scouting volunteers.
- 2/15 Bill & Lee Marsh
- 2/22 Janeane & Phillip Hopkins

Communion: February 8

Communion Set Up: 2/8 Marcie Muntz
Servers: 2/8 Marcie Muntz, Ann Pullano,
Marcia Arthur, John Bickell

Counters

- 2/1 Francesca & Ellen
- 2/8 Bob & Marcie
- 2/15 Jack & Marcia
- 2/22 Chuck & Cindy



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

January Highlights

Playing on their new Lighted Lego table, the school was able to purchase from their dine to donate fundraiser. Stay tuned for their next dine to donate coming in March!



All about snow!

They read the book A Snowy Day, then painted a snow storm with snow paint and gliter!



February Happenings

The students will have their Valentines Day party on Wednesday February 11th.

No School on Monday, February 16th, in observance of Presidents' Day!

