



# Steeple Notes



March 2026

## A Message From Pastor Sara

Lent is often thought of as a quiet and serious season. We talk about repentance, reflection, and sometimes giving something up. But the purpose of Lent is not to make us gloomy or weighed down. Lent is really a season of preparation—a time to ready our hearts for joy.

Think of it like preparing a garden for spring. Before new growth appears, the soil needs to be cleared and turned. Things that crowd or choke the life out of the garden are removed so that something new can take root. In the same way, Lent invites us to clear away whatever distracts us from God—noise, hurry, worry, or habits that leave little room for prayer and attention.

The practices of Lent don't have to be dramatic. A few minutes of quiet each day. A simple prayer. An act of generosity. Choosing gratitude instead of complaint. These small choices help us open space in our lives for God's presence.

And all of it points toward Easter. Lent is not an end in itself. It is a journey that leads to the good news that life is stronger than death, hope is stronger than fear, and joy has the final word. The more intentionally we walk through these forty days, the more deeply we are able to receive the joy of resurrection when it comes.

As we enter this season, may God help us prepare our hearts—clearing

space, paying attention, and trusting that new life is already on the way.

### Theology Matters Conference

I will be attending the Theology Matters conference March 1-8. Please call the Norwalk Presbyterian Church with any pastoral emergencies at 419-668-1923.

### Clergy Renewal Grant

I invite you to join me in prayer in the coming weeks as I prepare an application for the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program.

This national grant supports pastors and congregations by providing time for intentional renewal—a season set apart for rest, reflection, learning, and spiritual renewal so that ministry can continue with renewed energy and focus.

The proposal centers on the theme of Remembering the Ebenezers—reflecting on God's faithfulness in the past to strengthen our trust for the future.

Thank you for your prayers for wisdom, clarity, and openness to the renewal God is preparing for us.



# What's Happening

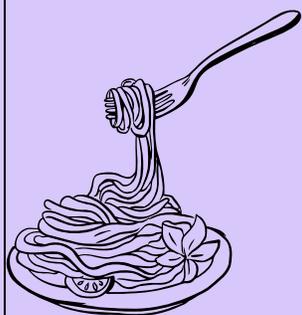


This Lent, we invite you to join us for a season of reflection, conversation, and community—served with a little soup and a classic film.

On March 10, 17, 24, and 31, we'll gather each Tuesday evening for our Lenten Soup & Study. Soup will be served at 6:00 PM, followed by a study as we watch a portion of the classic film Casablanca and explore the biblical themes woven throughout the story.

## SCOUTS SPAGHETTI DINNER

Bring your appetite and join us for the Scouts' Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 20!



This event is a great opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal and support the youth of our scouting program. The evening will feature plenty of pasta, good fellowship, and the chance to encourage the Scouts as they continue to learn, grow, and serve.

Mark your calendar and plan to come out for a fun and tasty night together. We hope to see you there!

## BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY



Bring your family and friends Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. for breakfast with the Easter Bunny in the fellowship hall, sponsored by the Lion's Club.



Maundy Thursday: April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday: April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:15 p.m. at  
First United Methodist Church  
Easter Breakfast: April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.  
Easter Worship: April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

We celebrated Phillip's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.



# Thank You

Thank you to everyone who brought in snacks for our blood drive volunteers and donors.

A big thank you to Sarah Blakeman for volunteering her time to provide lunch and snacks for the long-day events that we host.

**A Message from the Blood Drive**

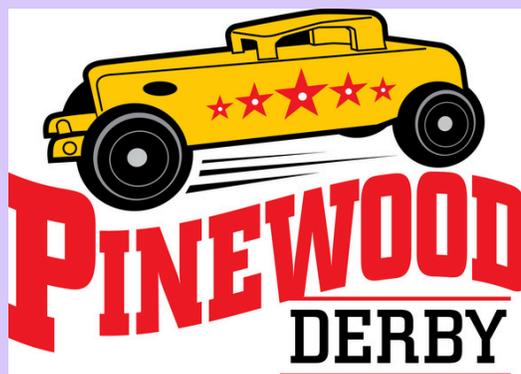
**Coordinator:** "Please tell Sarah, THANK YOU for the wonderful snacks she made."

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Steve Koenig for his latest theatrical role in the Fremont Community Theater's presentation of "Fun Home." Showtimes are March 13-15, and 20-22. Visit [fremontcommunitytheatre.org](http://fremontcommunitytheatre.org) to purchase tickets.

## First Responder Sunday Recognition!

### Huron Fire Chief Kevin McGraw



The Cub Scout Pack's Pinewood Derby is set for Sunday, March 29, in the afternoon in Fellowship Hall. Join us for this highly anticipated, fast-paced event! Scouts have worked hard designing and building their gravity-powered cars for speed and style. This fun afternoon of friendly competition, creativity, and teamwork is open to the whole church family. Come cheer on the scouts, watch the races, and enjoy the fellowship. Mark your calendar for the fastest afternoon in town!

## Session News

Session met on Wednesday, February 18, for its regular monthly meeting. In addition to prayer and the work of guiding the congregation's life and ministry, each meeting includes a time for elder training. Currently, Session is working through the ordination questions, reflecting on them alongside Scripture and selections from the Book of Confessions. This time of study helps ground our leadership in the promises we have made and the faith we share.

At the February meeting, Session discussed the proposed Lilly Clergy Renewal grant, reviewed plans for upcoming Lent and Easter events, and addressed financial matters. To close out last year's budget deficit, Session approved the use of funds from our Edward Jones reserves.

Our next Session meeting will be held on March 18. As always, we appreciate your prayers for the elders as they seek to lead the congregation with wisdom, faithfulness, and care.

## Session Members

Building and Grounds: John Bickell  
Christian Education: Deb Schippel  
Finance: Jack Arthur and Susan Martter  
Nurture and Mission: Chris Hakeman and Katy McGraw  
Stewardship: Francesca Lendrum  
Worship: Cynthia Brown Mathews and Steve Koenig  
Clerk of Session: Marcia Arthur  
Treasurer: John Blakeman  
Moderator: Rev. Sara Hodsden

## A Note from the

### Stewardship Committee

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of our congregation. Your giving makes the ministry and mission of our church possible, and we thank you for the many ways you support God's work here.

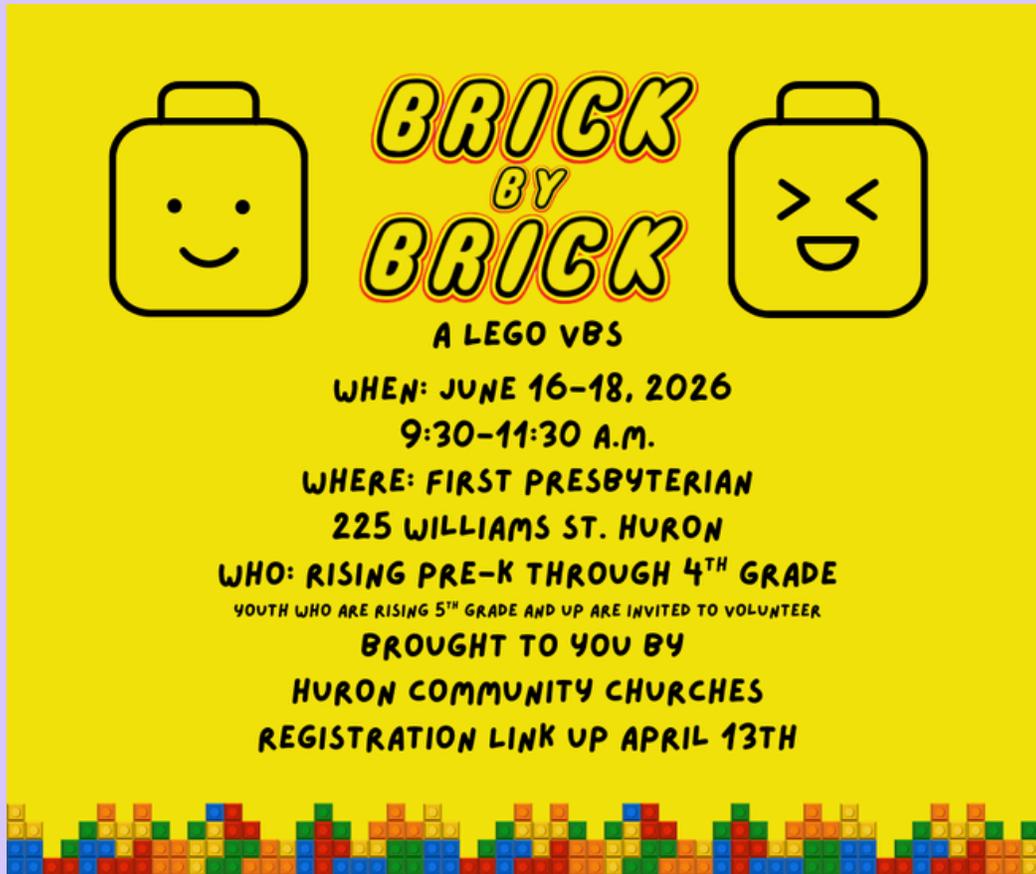
If you would ever like to review your giving statement, you can do so by setting up an account at [ChurchTrac.com](http://ChurchTrac.com). Once your account is active, you'll be able to view what has been recorded for your contributions so far this year.

A brief reminder about our process: we currently do not have an in-house bookkeeper. Contributions are recorded by our counters and then sent to our off-site bookkeeper for entry into the system. Because of this, we work to ensure that each month's giving is fully updated shortly after the end of that month.

If you ever have questions or need to request a correction, please contact Dawn in the church office at 610-433-5018, and she will coordinate with the bookkeeper.

Thank you again for your faithful and generous giving. Your support truly makes a difference.

# Looking Ahead



Faith doesn't grow all at once. It grows piece by piece, moment by moment—brick by brick.

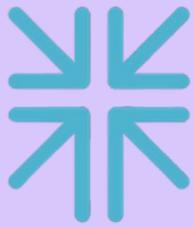
This summer, we're excited to host our LEGO-themed Vacation Bible School, Brick by Brick, on June 16–18. Over three days, children will explore three simple and powerful truths:

- God builds us (Genesis 1)
- Jesus is our foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- We build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Each morning will include hands-on LEGO building, creative crafts, games, snacks, and time to grow in faith and friendship. Our hope is that every child leaves knowing they are loved by God, grounded in Jesus, and part of a community that encourages them.

VBS is something our whole church builds together. In the coming weeks, we'll share ways you can help—through volunteering, prayer, or donations of new or gently used LEGO bricks.

Registration and additional details will be available soon. We can't wait to see what God builds this summer—brick by brick.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Throughout Lent, our congregation joins Presbyterians across the country in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering that helps meet urgent needs around the world. Through this ministry, gifts provide food for the hungry, relief for those affected by disasters, and support for communities working to build sustainable futures. It's a simple way for us to share God's love in very practical ways.

Once again this year, we're inviting everyone to participate in our Guess the Total coin contest. Bring your loose change—pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or bills—and add them to the collection jar. Then submit your best guess for the total amount raised.

Coins and guesses are due by Sunday, March 29.

The collection jar and entry forms will be available in the narthex.

The winner will be announced on Easter Sunday, and will get to choose one of the following:

- Lunch with Pastor Sara
- A Cleveland Guardians game with Pastor Sara
- A movie outing with Pastor Sara
- The opportunity to choose the hymns for one Sunday worship service

Lent is a season of generosity and compassion, and even the smallest gift can make a meaningful difference. So check your pockets, empty your coin jars at home, and join us in sharing hope—one coin at a time.



We are pleased to welcome Jason Armstrong as our guest preacher on Sunday, March 9.

Jason is a candidate for ordination and serves as a New Church Development pastor in Toledo. His ministry is focused on a group of young adults who are often overlooked—those aging out of the foster care system. Each year, many young people leave foster care without stable housing, strong support networks, or a faith community to walk alongside them. Jason's new church initiative is designed to meet them where they are, offering connection, belonging, and hope as they navigate this critical transition into adulthood.

Huron United Methodist Church

# Community Art Exhibition

JOIN US AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS POUR THEIR TALENT INTO ART

## Hands to Work Hearts to God

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 10-5 & MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> 11-2

ARTISTS: SCAN TO ENTER  
OR VISIT [HURONUMC.ORG](http://HURONUMC.ORG)

Huron Vocal Music Dept presents

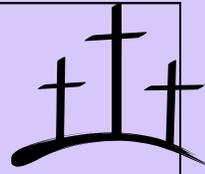
March 20-21 @ 7pm | March 22 @ 2pm  
McCormick Auditorium

# THE WIZARD of OZ

Book by L. Frank Baum  
With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg  
Background Music by Herbert Stothur  
Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard  
Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture created by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.  
Adapted by John Kase for The Royal Shakespeare Company

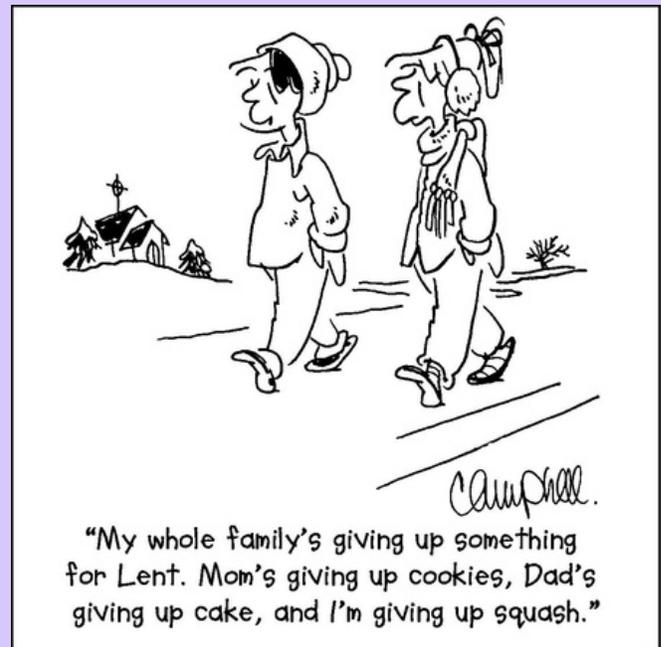
Tickets: \$12  
[hurontheatre@gmail.com](mailto:hurontheatre@gmail.com)  
OR Whitney Fantozzi (419) 271-0603



Check this out

## Gospel of Mark Presentation

Edison Memorial United Methodist Church invites all to a Lenten presentation of Mark's Gospel, featuring actor Geoffrey Darling, on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Originally from New Zealand, Geoffrey has performed Mark's Gospel for over 25 years. Freewill donations to benefit Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services.



# Prayer Page



Adam Clarke noticed four things displayed by Jairus (see Mark 5:22) that are necessary for answered prayer.

- We must put ourselves in the presence of Jesus (one of the rulers of the synagogue came).
- We must humble ourselves sincerely before Jesus (he fell at His feet)
- We must lay open our request with a holy earnestness (and begged Him earnestly).
- We must have total confidence in the power and the goodness of Jesus (Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live).



## 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.

## Huron prayer calendar

3/1 Christ Episcopal Church  
Father Michael Floyd  
3/8 St. Peter's Catholic Church  
Father Doug Garand  
3/15 Huron United Methodist Church  
Pastor Pamela Sayre  
3/22 Zion Lutheran Church  
Rev. Katy Sugget  
3/29 First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Sara Hodsden

## Pray for our Military...

Ben DeLamatre, and Emily Stellpflug



# Dates & Schedules



## Liturgists

## Ushers

## Counters

|          |                   |  |                                   |
|----------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| March 1  | Janet Mueller     | Francesca Lendrum                      | Francesca Lendrum and Ellen Drumm |
| March 8  | Ann Pullano       | Chuck and Cindy Kaman                  | John and Sarah Blakeman           |
| March 15 | Francesca Lendrum | Rick Mathews and Cynthia Brown Mathews | Chuck and Cindy Kaman             |
| March 22 | Phillip Hopkins   | Marcie Muntz and Betty Reed            | Bob and Marcie Muntz              |
| March 29 | Sarah Blakeman    | Kitty Cunningham and Phillip Hopkins   | John and Sarah Blakeman           |

## Communion Preparation and Servers

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| March 1 | Communion Preparation: Janeane Hopkins<br>Servers: Katy McGraw, Janeane & Phillip Hopkins, Francesca Lendrum |
|---------|--|

## Flowers

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 1  | Francesca Lendrum in celebration of Tommy's birthday and the kids.                   |
| March 8  | Rick Mathews and Cynthia Brown Mathews in loving memory of John C. Brown, a Veteran. |
| March 15 | Ellen Drumm, Praise God for the changing of the seasons and anticipation of spring!  |
| March 22 | Rick Mathews and Cynthia Brown Mathews, in loving memory of Sue M. Brown.            |



|      |                             |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 3/5  | William Marsh, Harry Wright |
| 3/8  | Hollie Mueller              |
| 3/9  | Bob Kaman                   |
| 3/12 | Katherine Brouse            |
| 3/15 | Andrea Kaman                |
| 3/26 | Carol Mack                  |
| 3/29 | Anne Marie (Koch) Alexander |
| 3/30 | James Hodsdon               |

We can now provide important updates via text message! Want to sign up? Text "Subscribe" to 833-354-1370. We won't send too many messages!



By the end of March, we will have new email addresses for the church. Please update your email address book.

- The new church office address will be [office@firstpresbychurchhuron.org](mailto:office@firstpresbychurchhuron.org)
- The new address for Pastor Sara will be [pastor@firstpresbychurchhuron.org](mailto:pastor@firstpresbychurchhuron.org).



The Ladies Who Lunch group will meet on March 13 at 11:30 at Mekong Restaurant. This restaurant, specializing in Vietnamese cuisine, is located on Route 250 across the street from Corso's. Any woman that attends church and their friends are welcome to join us for this time of fun and fellowship! If you'd like to come or need a ride call Dawn in the office or tell Marcie Muntz.



Presbyterian Women are launching the Feeding of the 5,000 food drive again this year. You are invited to take a reusable shopping bag that is provided at church and purchase the items from 1 of the lists in the bag. Bring the bag with the items to church on or before March 29. The food will then be donated to the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Huron. The food pantry is always grateful to receive donations.

The items on the list usually run about \$30 or less. You can team up with a friend to purchase a list or make a monetary donation if that is better for you. Thank you for helping people who need support now or down the road.

## List One

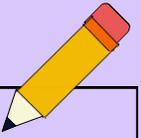
- 2 cans of tuna fish
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 4 cans of soup
- 4 cans of vegetables
- 2 boxes of mac and cheese
- 1 large jar of spaghetti sauce
- 1 1 lb. box of pasta
- 1 package of juice boxes
- 2 cans of beef stew or chili
- 1 box of brownie mix

## List Two

- 2 boxes of pasta
- 1 large can of beans
- 1 large box of cereal
- 1 large plastic bottle of apple juice
- 4 cans of fruit
- 2 cans of ravioli
- 2 cans of beef stew or chili
- 2 cans of hash
- 1 box of brownie mix



# Little Wonders Preschool



The children learned all about being a kind friend, and afterwards, had fun making friendship bracelets!



Art is always a fun day at Little Wonders!



Fiinal fundraiser of the school year, will be the Nothing But Bundt Cakes Easter fundraiser stay tuned for more information on how to order!

## 2026/2027 upcoming school year News

Priority Registration for our current Little Wonders starts on February 21. On Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Mrs. Hartnett and Mrs. Rager will host the annual Little Wonders Presbyterian Preschool Open House. Please invite any friends or family members to check out our classroom and see what we have to offer. Online registration will become open at 1 p.m. to the public after open house.



It has been decided to make some changes to Little Wonders preschool program structure and hours for the upcoming school year.

The parents will be offered a 4 day morning class to the younger learners and the older learners will have the opportunity to also come 4 mornings a week and also stay 2 days a week for an extended day of pre-kindergarten enrichment.



Kim Hartnett - Director  
Amber Rager - Teacher  
419-433-4348  
littlewondersshuron@gmail.com

# Mark your Calendar



- March 1 - Worship @ 10 a.m. Fellowship hour @ 11 a.m.
- March 2 - Christ Community Meal @ 12 p.m.
- March 5- Bell Choir @ 10 a.m.
- March 8 - Worship @ 10 a.m. Fellowship hour @ 11 a.m.
- March 9 - Christ Community Meal @ 12 p.m.
- March 10 - Lenten Soup & Study @ 6 p.m.
- March 11 - Christ Community Meal @ 12 p.m.
- March 12 - Bell Choir @ 10 a.m.
- March 13 - Lenten Soup & Study @ 6 p.m.
- March 15 - Worship @ 10 a.m. Fellowship hour @ 11 a.m.
- March 16 - Christ Community Meal @ 12 p.m.
- March 17 - Lenten Soup & Study @ 6 p.m.
- March 18 - Session @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 19 - Bell Choir @ 10 a.m.
- March 20 - Scouts Spaghetti Dinner @ 5 p.m.
- March 22 - Worship @ 10 a.m. Fellowship hour @ 11 a.m.
- March 23 - Christ Community Meal @ 12 p.m.
- March 24 - Lenten Soup & Study @ 6 p.m.
- March 25 - Chrst Community Meal @ 5 p.m.
- March 26 - Bell Choir @ 10 a.m.
- March 27 - Pine Wood Derby
- March 28 - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny @ 8 a.m.
- March 29 - Worship @ 10 a.m. Fellowship hour @ 11 a.m. Pine Wood Derby
- March 30 - Christ Community Meal @ 12 p.m.
- March 31 - Lenten Soup & Study @ 6 p.m.