



Steeple Notes

May 2026

A Message from Pastor Sara

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” — Acts 1:8

As I write this, I am in Indianapolis at a gathering of Presbyterian clergy and laity who feel called to pray for and work toward renewal in our denomination. It is not an official PC(USA) conference, but it has been a space for honest conversation—about where we are, and where God may be leading us.

One of the recurring concerns here has been Presbyterian involvement in world mission.

For over 200 years, Presbyterians were deeply engaged in global mission. We sent missionaries to places like China, Korea, India, Egypt, Iran, and across Africa and South America. These efforts were not abstract. They took shape in hospitals, schools, seminaries, and churches—places where the Gospel was proclaimed in both word and deed.

That reality has changed.

As of early 2025, the Presbyterian Mission Agency no longer exists. As a denomination, we are no longer sending missionaries as we once did. Nearly all mission co-workers have been laid off and called home. It is a significant shift,

and it raises real questions about identity, responsibility, and calling.

There is no reason to minimize that loss.

At the same time, what I have encountered here has reminded me that the story of God’s mission has not slowed down.

In Iran, where the government has worked to limit access to outside information, the Church continues to grow—quietly, but persistently. Even when internet access is restricted, radio broadcasts in Farsi continue to reach into homes, offering the message of the Gospel and encouragement to those who are searching.

I met a young missionary working with migrants in Rome, Italy—many from Pakistan and parts of Africa—who are navigating dislocation, uncertainty, and hardship. In that context, the Gospel is not theoretical. It is received as hope, as belonging, as a new beginning.

In Ukraine, the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary is training chaplains, equipping counselors for trauma and grief, and participating in humanitarian relief. Alongside partner organizations, they are caring for families and children, including orphans, while continuing to bear witness to Christ in the midst of war. (continued on next page)



A Message from Pastor Sara (continued)

These are not isolated stories. They are signs that the Church is still alive and active across the world.

Which brings us to a harder question: What is our role in that story?

For many years, our participation in world mission has been mediated through denominational structures. We gave. We trusted. And often, that was the extent of our engagement. There was value in that system—but there was also distance.

That distance is no longer an option.

If anything, this moment may be an invitation—not to retreat from global mission, but to engage it more intentionally.

Our congregational vision is “Tending to the hearts and souls of our neighbors.” That vision has shaped how we serve here, in our local community. But Acts 1:8 stretches our understanding of neighbor. Jesus names not only Jerusalem, but Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

The call has always been both local and global.

So the question is not whether we continue local mission—we will. The question is whether we are willing to expand our imagination of what it means to be neighbors.

What might it look like for us to build real relationships with those serving in other parts of the world? To know names, not just organizations? To pray with specificity, not generality? To support not only financially, but relationally?

This does not mean trying to do everything.

It likely means choosing carefully—focusing on a small number of partnerships where we can listen, learn, and walk alongside others in meaningful ways.

In the months ahead, I would like us to begin that process of discernment together. Not with quick decisions, but with thoughtful attention to where God is already at work and how we might join in.

Because the truth is simple, even if the path forward is not:

The Gospel is still being proclaimed.
The Church is still growing.
Lives are still being changed.

And we are still called to be witnesses.

Here, in our community—and to the ends of the earth.

Are you interested in learning about possible mission partners? Visit:
The Outreach Foundation
theoutreachfoundation.org

New Wilmington Mission Conference
nwmcmmission.org

The Frontier Fellowship
frontierfellowship.org

The Antioch Partners
theantioechpartners.org



Prayer Page



"Some mercies are not given except in answer to importunate prayer. There are blessings which, like ripe fruit, drop into your hand the moment you touch the bough; but there are others which require you to shake the tree again and again, until you make it rock with the vehemence of your exercise, for then only will the fruit fall down. My brethren, we must cultivate importunity in prayer. While the sun is shining and when the sun has gone down, still should prayer be kept up and fed with fresh fuel, so that it burns fiercely, and flames on high like a beacon fire blazing towards heaven." Spurgeon

Prayer Group

There is power in gathering together for prayer. Let's resume the prayer group on May 11th. Let me know who is interested and if the Monday at 1:00 is good. As always, everyone is welcome. It's not just a women's group!

Huron Prayer Calendar

5/3	Zion Lutheran Church
5/10	First Presbyterian Church Pastor Sara Hodsden
5/17	Salvation Army
5/24	Christ Episcopal Church Father Michael Floyd
5/31	St. Peter Catholic Church Father Doug Garand

Please Pray For...

Kim Medina (Sister of Dawn Fleming), The family and friends of Ron Vanatsky, Martha & Ray Casten, Eldon Zimmer, Owen Fleming, Jennifer Kelley, Angie Kwok, David Andrews (Gail Burke's Son-in-Law), 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



What's Happening



Spring Rummage Sale

PW's Spring Rummage Sale

PW's Spring Rummage Sale will be part of Huron's city-wide garage sale on Saturday, May 16th. Our sale will be from 9 am to 1 pm. Donations can be placed in the Fellowship Hall only on Thursday and Friday of this week because of Wednesday's Christ Community Meal. If you need to drop off your donations before Thursday, please contact the church office for instructions on where to leave your donations in the church.

Volunteers are needed to set up on Friday, May 2nd (9 am to noon), during the sale on Saturday (8:30 am to 1 pm), and to clean up (1 pm to 2 pm) after the sale. Thank you!



Voting will take place Tuesday, May 5th, in the fellowship hall, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. If you would like to help feed the poll workers, see Sarah Blakeman.

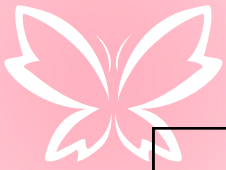


Our Building and Grounds Committee is preparing a spring cleaning project to help all committees refresh and tidy their storage areas. A warm thank-you to John Bickell for leading the effort. Anyone with the time and a love for organizing is invited to reach out to John to get involved.

Lunch



Ladies Who Lunch will meet at Vita in downtown Sandusky on May 8 at 11:30. This restaurant is located in the former bank building at the corner of Columbus and Washington Rd. Please let Dawn or Marcie Muntz know if you'd like to go. We'll also try to car pool as parking can be a bit tricky. The owner was a student of Kathy Kirby's and he said she was his favorite teacher of all time! There are copies of the menu in the church office if you'd like to get an idea of their food selections.



Attention Job Crew:



Janet Ziimer is in need of a person to clean her home once a week for 3 hours. She unfortunately lost her regular cleaning person. If INTERESTED or no, someone who may be INTERESTED, please contact the church office.



Session Members

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

Community Happenings

Mother's Day Crafting Huron Library

Wednesday, May 13th " p.m. - 7 p.m.
Huron Library:
"Mother's Day Trinket Bowl Craft
Make and decorate your own trinket bowl either as a Mother's Day gift or as a gift to yourself."

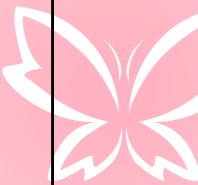


Movie Night Huron Library



"Superman (2025) at
Huron Public Library!"

Wednesday, May 27th
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm





Dates & Schedules



	Liturgists	Ushers	Counters
May 3	Steve Koenig	Rick & Cynthia Mathews	Ellen Drumm & Francesca Lendrum
May 10	Cynthia Mathews	Chuck & Cindy Kaman	Bob & Macie Muntz
May 17	Janet Mueller	Jack & Marcia Arthur	Jack & Marcia Arthur
May 24	Amy Nevison	Phillip Hopkins & Kitte Cunningham	John & Sarah Blakeman
May 31	Jack Arthur	Janet Mueller & Francesca Lendrum	Chuck & Cindy Kaman

Communion Preparation and Servers

May 3	Francesca Lendrum (Set up & Server), Cindy Kaman, Chuck Kaman, Chris Hakeman
-------	--

Flowers

5/3	John Bickell - In loving memory of Marybarbra Bickell, Mother & Grandmother.
5/10	Cynthia Mathews - In celebration of all moms.
5/27	Kathy Kirby - Celebration of Tom & Son in Law Rich's birthdays, all men & women in the service.
5/31	Wendy Quinn - Celebration of Our Anniversary



Dates & Schedules

Christ Community Meal

5/4	12 p.m. Lunch
5/11	12 p.m. Lunch
5/13	5 p.m. Dinner
5/18	12 p.m. Lunch
5/25	12 p.m. Lunch
5/27	5 p.m. Dinner

**Happy
BIRTHDAY**

May Birthdays



5/3	Jane LaFace
5/4	Carolyn Culbertson
5/8	Alice Roehrs
5/12	Becky Koenig
5/19	Bob Muntz
5/20	Joel Hagy , Betsey Luipold, Stephanie Schippel
5/21	Lee Marsh, Nick LaFace
5/22	Ann Pullano
5/23	Jeanne Schafer
5/29	Tom Kirby
5/30	John Bickell
5/31	Gennette Solomon





Little Wonders Preschool

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

April Highlights

Before Spring Break, the preschool enjoyed a fun Easter party, Which included crafts, games, snacks and an easter egg hunt



In April, the preschool received chick eggs, and they will patiently watch for 21 days when they hatch into baby chicks.



May Happenings

Many lasts for everything this month: Parties, Play, learning and much more!

Coffee and Donuts with mom

Last day of school, walk to the park and popsicles



Our Little Wonders Preschool Class of 2026

Graduation will be held on May 21st at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary all are welcome!



Mark Your Calendar



5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31	10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship Hour
5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25	12 p.m. Christ Community Meal
5/5	6 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Voting - Fellowship hall
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26	7 p.m. AA
5/13, 5/27	5 p.m. Christ Community Meal
5/20	6:30 p.m. Session
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28	10 a.m. Bell Choir 8 p.m. AA
5/8	11:30 a.m. Ladies Who Lunch
5/11-5/15	Rummage Sale Drop Off
5/15	9 a.m. Rummage Sale Set up
5/16	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Rummage Sale - Fellowship hall
5/21	10 a.m. Little Wonders Preschool Graduation