



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

The Monthly Newsletter of Huron United Methodist Church * Issue 290 * Dec. '23/Jan.'24



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR P.

It is the time of year when we hang the lights and decorate the trees, attend gatherings with family and friends, and write that annual letter to all the folks we haven't communicated with since... well... our last holiday letter... It is that time of year when we eat too much, are way too busy, and get frustrated way too easily...

In reality, this is the time when we should take a breath... This is the time when we should slow down... This is the time when we should be concentrating not so much on the baking and decorating and shopping... but on preparing ourselves – readying our hearts and minds – to welcome The One who comes to save us! (Yes, I am aware that that is much easier said than done!)

I encourage you over these next couple months to plan time each week to sit and read and ponder the weekend worship Scriptures (found later in this newsletter). I encourage you to participate regularly in worship. I encourage you to join one of the many classes, musical opportunities, or fellowship times we offer here at Huron UMC!

A new year (liturgically) has begun and a new year (calendar wise) will soon begin! Perhaps it is time for a new journey toward and with Jesus!

We are Huron United Methodist Church! (WooHoo!) We are disciples of Jesus, the Christ, followers of the living God, and sharers of the WORD! May God continue to encourage, empower,

and equip us as we strive “to make [and mature] disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!” WELCOME – WORSHIP - WITNESS

Have a blessed Advent, a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a holy Epiphany!

Grace and peace, blessings and health,
Pastor P.



JOIN US BY THE CAMPFIRE
FOR A FESTIVE WORSHIP AND
ENJOY HOT COCOA AND
S'MORES. THEN STAY FOR
THE FIREWORKS!

BETTCHER PARK
DECEMBER 2ND @ 5PM

ROOF/BOILER PROJECT

We are still collecting change for the roof/boiler project! The collection jug is in the sanctuary each Sunday! Let's see how quickly we can reach the “top” again! When it is filled, we will see who can come closest to guessing the amount in the jug!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your talent!!! There are plenty of ways to help Huron United Methodist Church in our missions and ministries. Be on the lookout for the Volunteer Job Bank in the Welcome Center. There you can find job openings, the job description and the level of commitment that particular position requires. We have an IMMEDIATE need for the following: Audio Visual Tech, LIFT Teachers, LIFT Dinner Helpers, and On-Line Worship Greeters.

If your team or group would like a volunteer job opening posted, please email the job title, description, and commitment level to Jenessa Faller, discipleship@huronumc.org.



RED KETTLE VOLUNTEERING

Bell Ringers are needed for Wednesday, December 13, 2022 in front of Huron Market (new location) to represent Huron United Methodist Church. The times are from 10 am to 6 pm for 2-hour segments. A sign-up sheet is on the Mission bulletin board near the Welcome Center.

Any questions, please contact Barb Ringle 216-299-0916. You'll be surprised at the people you'll run into.



CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS

With your love and support, we can reach out to a local family in need this holiday season. This year Huron United Methodist will be sponsoring 1 family with 2 young people. The girl is age 14 and the boy is age 12.

Tags were placed on our Mission Board (located just outside the Fellowship Hall). Purchase, wrap, and return your gift (with the tag attached- this is **very** important) by **10:00 AM, December 18, 2023** to the designated table in the front hall. Or contact Barb Ringle at 216-299-0916 if you want to drop off it earlier or have questions.

Thank you so very much for your support!

WINTERFEST BAZAAR

There will be a bazaar featuring a variety of knitted, quilted, and sewn items as well as hand-made cards and cookies in the church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 2nd from Noon to 6 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Roof/Boiler Project.

HURON UMC IS A LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH!

Our Lighthouse Church "training team" is made up of the following: Pastor P. (Pastor), Scott Whitehurst (Lay Member to Annual Conference, Band Member), Jenessa Faller (Director of Discipleship Ministries), and Dave (Lay Leader) & Judy Wilber (Past Treasurer, Choir Member). Huron United Methodist Church – where All are invited! All are welcome! All means ALL!

DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday., December 14th at 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Program: Huron HS Troubadours. Menu: Turkey Dinner: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, and Christmas Cookies. \$9 cash. Sign-up in the Welcome Center. Questions or to sign up by phone, contact Dee Hartley at 419-357-8825. Please sign up by noon on Monday, December 11th.

thank you!

Dear Church Family and Beyond,

Thanks to all for your prayers, cards and thoughtfulness. Your caring is very much appreciated. Recovery is taking longer than I anticipated so your continued prayer are still needed.

Love to all,

Beth Anne

Your HUMC Administrative Secretary

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our **Veterans Day Meal & Concert** possible! Thanks to the generosity of a couple donors and everyone who donated desserts, we were able to raise over \$600 for the boiler/roof project! Special thanks to the Firelands Brass Quintet!



THANK YOU to everyone who helped decorate the church and park for Advent & Christmas!!! Special thanks to Donna & Alyson who took over the organizing this year so Norma could focus on other things! (There are a lot of great pics on our Facebook page!)



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

We lit candles in all three worship celebrations over ALL SAINTS Weekend. We remembered 16 persons who were members of our congregation, related to members of our congregation, or for whom Pastor P. officiated their services. Please remember all the families who are grieving this Advent/Christmas season.



BETTERING YOUR HEALTH

There is Chair Yoga on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM, led by Linda Wilson. Donations go to the Roof Fund!



TOTAL BODY CONDITIONING CLASS

There is now a Total Body Conditioning Class on Thursdays at 8:30 AM. Cardio plus strength training. All levels of fitness welcome. Participants will need to bring a mat and a set of dumbbells. Instructor: Loretta Majoy, A.C.E. Certified



AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNOLOGY TEAM

We need you!!!! This now also includes ON-LINE GREETERS! We offer free training and tons of moral support and... our eternal gratitude!!! Please consider being part of the A/V worship team and help us do what we already do – better! If you are interested, please contact Derek Callin, Chris Harlan, or Pastor P.

ADOPT A SCHOOL UPDATES

Adopt a School is a nationwide program where churches come alongside schools to help in various ways. Huron United Methodist Church and our community churches are teaming up to help the students and staff of Huron City Schools. Weekly opportunities to get involved include the Tutoring Team and The Breakfast Buddy Team.

Tutoring Team - sign up to tutor, usually once per week. You and a teacher will work out a schedule together. A background check through the school is required.

Breakfast Buddy Team – Spend time with students during breakfast, making them feel cared about. Usually weekly or bi-weekly, but snowbirds are welcome! You pick the day!

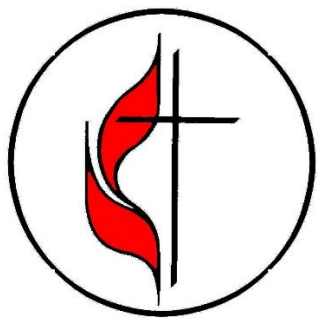
We are also looking for “Prayer Warriors”! Please email Jenessa to let her know if you are interested - discipleship@huronumc.org.

The next Donuts and Devotions will take place on Friday December 1st at Woodlands from 7-7:30 AM. This is a monthly time to meet and pray with staff members while enjoying coffee and breakfast. If you are interested in attending or supplying a breakfast item please contact Jenessa.

L.I.F.T.!

Living In Faith Together each Wednesday! During November & December doors will open at 4:45 PM, KIDS’ CHOIR will rehearse from 5:00 – 5:30 PM, and CONFIRMATION will go from 5:30 – 6:00 PM. YOUTH GROUP, KID’S CLASS, AND ADULT CLASS will all continue to meet from 5:45 – 6:30 PM. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. (We are looking for folks to help with dinner! Please let Kathy Faller know if you are interested!) There is plenty of time to visit, work on puzzles, play foosball, etc.! Come join the fun!

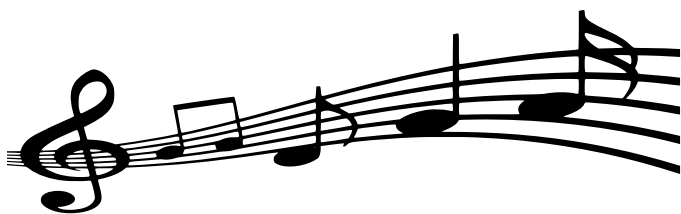
INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF HURON UMC? If so, please see Pastor P. and pick up your copy of **UNITED METHODIST QUESTIONS, UNITED METHODIST ANSWERS: Exploring Christian Faith** by F. Belton Joyner, Jr.



CONFIRMATION & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Our Confirmation Class is currently meeting on **Wednesdays during LIFT at 5:30 PM**. Following class, we are spending time putting together a puzzle, playing foosball, and/or hanging with the Youth Group! We have dinner with the rest of the LIFT folks at 6:30 PM. Some confirmands, due to scheduling conflicts, will be meeting on scheduled Sunday's following the 10:00 AM Worship celebration. (Dates still to be determined.) There is still time! Anyone in grades 4-12 who would like to learn more about the church and become a member, please let Pastor P. know ASAP! We're having a great year!

Our UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on **Wednesdays at 5:30 during LIFT in room 6/7!!** WooHoo! Doors open at 4:45 PM and dinner is at 6:30 PM. If you are in grades 5-12 (and have, hopefully, gone through confirmation), this is the place for you! You are also encouraged to invite/bring a friend!

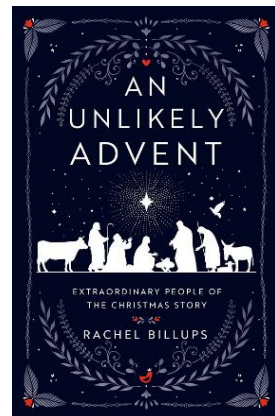


KIDS CHOIR!

We are looking ahead to Christmas Eve and beginning to prepare for our 5:00 PM Family Friendly Celebration! Once again this year we will have a "kids choir" that will sing and play Boomwackers! There will be rehearsals on **Wednesdays at 5:00 PM** (Dec. 6, 13 & 20) and **Saturdays at 4:30 PM** (Dec. 9, 16 & 23). Please plan to attend as many as possible! Questions: contact Pastor P.

ADULT ADVENT STUDY

Expect the unexpected this Christmas! Join us for this 4-week study that began on November 29th. Based on the book *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups. This study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.



The Advent study will take place during LIFT on Wednesdays: November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 5:45 PM. You do not need a book to participate and you do not have to be able to attend every session! Come when you can!!!

PASTOR'S READING [WISH] LIST

BEING UNITED METHODIST CHRISTIANS: *Living A Life Of Grace And Hope* by Andy Langford, Ann Langford Duncan, and Sally Langford

FOR SABBATH'S SAKE: *Embracing Your Need For Rest, Worship, and Community* by J. Dana Trent

MULTIPLYING LOVE: *A Vision of United Methodist Life Together* by Paul W. Chilcote

DEVOTIONS: *The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* by Mary Oliver

FEATHERS OF HOPE by Sharon Garlough Brown

THE THINGS WE CANNOT SAY by Kelly Rimmer

COMMUNION ELEMENTS

We now have pre-packaged Communion elements available in the office for pick-up! Regular and gluten-free!



BLUE CHRISTMAS...

WORSHIP & TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Once again, this year we will have a time to worship together and remember and meditate on those we have lost, those we are missing, the ways we are hurting or struggling or seeking community this Advent/Christmas Season.

This unique worship experience will take place on **Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall or live (or later) on the church Facebook page. We will hear Scripture, sing songs, pray, and have the opportunity to place the names of loved ones and/or the description of our hurt or struggle upon the tree.

All are invited. All are welcome. All means ALL!



CHRISTMAS EVE!!!

Christmas Eve is the same day as ADVENT IV this year. So, our Sunday morning worship – ADVENT IV – will be a COMBINED celebration at 9:00 AM. We will join for CHRISTMAS EVE worship/candlelight celebrations at 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:30 PM.

5:00 PM – Kid's Choir

7:00 PM – Praise Band

9:00 PM – Chancel Choir & Organ

11:30 PM – Guitar (Communion)

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES

If you are able to help put together, place along the walks, and/or light luminaries, please email Pastor P at pastor@huronumc.org.

DECEMBER & JANUARY WORSHIP PLANS

Dec. 2/3: ADVENT I/Communion

Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;

*Luke 1:5-25

Sermon: "Never Lose Hope!"

Dec. 9/10: ADVENT II

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;

*Matthew 2:1-3, 7-8, 13, 16

Sermon: "Fear Of Love"

Dec. 16/17: ADVENT III

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;

*Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12

Sermon: "Filled With Joy!"

Dec. 21: BLUE CHRISTMAS (7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall)

Scriptures: TBA

Message: TBA

Dec. 23/24: ADVENT IV (9:00 AM)

Scriptures: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55;

*Luke 2:8-20

Sermon: "Longing For Peace"

Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE (5:00, 7:00, 9:00, & 11:30 PM)

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;

*Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: "The Savior Is Here!"

Dec. 30/31: First Sat./Sun. After Christmas

(Sunday at 9:00 AM)

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3; Psalm 148;

*Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: "This Child Is Destined..."

Jan. 6/7: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD/Communion

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12;

*Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Star Of Light"

Jan. 13/14: Second Sat./Sun. After the Epiphany

Scriptures: I Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;

*John 1:43-51

Sermon: "Come Follow Me"

Jan. 20/21: Third Sat./Sun. After the Epiphany

Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;

*Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: "You Come Too"

Jan. 27/28: Fourth Sat./Sun. After the Epiphany

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;

*Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: "The Spread Of Good News"

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM LITURGISTS

Dec. 3: Mike Prosser (8); Al Meyer (10)
 Dec. 10: Loretta Majoy (8); Jack Hubbard (10)
 Dec. 17: Carole Dreffer (8); Alyson Wilson (10)
 Dec. 24: Dave Wilber (9 AM); Cathi Dix Houghton (7);
 Derek Callin (9 PM)
 Dec. 31: Barb Ringle (9)
 Jan. 7: Tom Sprunk (8); Carol Schell (10)
 Jan 14: Chip Houghton (8); Jack Hubbard (10)
 Jan. 21: Rob Hoffner (8); Alyson Wilson (10)
 Jan. 28: Loretta Majoy (8); Dave Wilber (10)

10:00 AM GREETERS

Dec. 3: Nancy Meyer
 Dec. 10: Ben & Bonnie Lindsley
 Dec. 17: Scott Timple
 Dec. 24: Mike & Wanda Lyons (9 AM)
 Dec. 30: ??? (9 AM)
 Jan. 7: Tank & Becky Rogers
 Jan 14: Scott Timple
 Jan. 21: Mike & Wanda Lyons
 Jan. 28: Bob Hastings

CHRISTMAS EVE GREETERS

??? (5 PM)
 ??? (7 PM)
 Bob Hastings (9 PM)

DECEMBER & JANUARY MEETINGS

SPRC – Tues., Dec. 5th at 7:00 PM (Rms. 3/4)
Church Council – Mon., Dec. 11th at 7:00 PM
 (Rms.3-4)
Trustees – Tues., Dec. 12th at 7:00 PM (Rms. 3/4)
Finance Committee – Mon., Dec. 18th at 6:30 PM
 (Rms. 3/4)
SPRC – Tues., Jan. 2nd at 7:00 PM (Rms. 3/4)
Trustees – Tues., Jan. 9th at 7:00 PM (Rms. 3/4)

OTHER MEETINGS/EVENTS/DATES

FSO Chorale Rehearsals: Dec. 4th, 7th (Mon./Thurs.)
 & Jan. 29th (Mon.) 6:30 – 9:00 PM (Sanctuary)
Card Gals Workshop: Wed., 17th from 10:00 AM –
 3:00 PM (Rms. 3 & 4)
Quilt Group Sew Day: Fridays – TBA, from 10:00 AM
 – 4:00 PM (Basement Quilt Room)
TAKE DOWN DECORATIONS: Sun., Jan. 7th at 11:00
 AM

Pantry Sundays: Dec. 17th & Jan. 21st

February Newsletter Articles Due: Sun., Jan. 19th

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Addison McFarland
 2 – Beverly Semon
 5 – Brian Foster; Alyssa Enderle
 6 – Marsha Noftz
 7 – Avery McFarland; Alivia McFarland
 8 – Karen Kishman
 12 – Jean Hamilton
 13 – Sally Sprunk
 14 – James Hassinger; Donna Preston
 15 – Jacqueline Wheland
 16 – Clinton Boos
 17 – Millicent Pettegrew; Kiah Maddix
 19 – Janice Hassinger
 21 – Jessica Schmidt; Riley Deans-Marxmiller
 26 – John Rowen; Baylor Fortune; Ralph Hagman
 28 – Ruth Turner
 29 – Carol Schell

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Brandon Odell
 6 – Korah Keegan
 11 – Brad Dees
 13 – Gloria Souter; Walker Rapson
 14 – William Houghton
 16 – Cindy Fialka
 17 – Christopher Harlan; Rebecca Harlan
 18 – Caleb Moore
 19 – Lisa Beebe; Janet Dugan; Macy McFarland
 20 – Nancy Rossi
 22 – Michelle Hand
 23 – Linda Boos; Elaine Hogan
 24 – Wayne Foster; Todd Diffenbacher;
 Poppy Potts
 25 – Sandy Foster; Samantha Diffenbacher
 26 – Rev. Roger Skelley-Watts
 28 – Christopher Hand
 30 – Margaret Cawrse; William Meyer
 31 – Jerry Semon

2024



Huron United Methodist Church

338 Williams Street • Huron, OH 44839 • 419-433-3984

In continuing support of the programs, ministries and services of Huron United Methodist Church, I/we shall try to give the following:

Per week ** \$ _____ x 52 weeks = \$ _____
- or -

Per month \$ _____ x 12 months = \$ _____
- or -

Annually \$ _____ x 1 = \$ _____

** There is no obligation to submit 4 checks per month. For your convenience, the giving can be made monthly with one check.

Signed: _____ Printed Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Envelope # _____ Email address (for sending "Giving Statements"): _____

This is an expression of intent and is not a legal obligation. Please return on or before Sunday, November 12, 2023.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

Please drop off or mail in your order, place in the offering box, call in or email to the Church Office at 419-433-3984 or secretary@huronumc.org. Payment may be made in person or noted on your offering envelope/check memo line. We cannot include you in the order until payment is received. Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 10th.

You may pick up your poinsettia after the conclusion of 11:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship. The building will be open limited hours between Christmas Day and New Year's Day – those are yet to be determined.

**The Church Office is taking orders
until Sunday, December 10th,
for poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary
on Sunday, December 17th & Christmas Eve.**

Order below and please include your payment with your dedication/memorial. All poinsettias are red. Thank you!

Your Name _____

Quantity _____ @ \$10.00 each for a total of \$ _____.

Paid by: _____ check (# _____) or _____ cash

Dedication (check one): _____ in memory of _____ in honor of _____

Dedication Name(s): _____

