

Van Buren Presbyterian Church

June 2011

207 W. Market St
P. O. Box 35
Van Buren, OH 45840

Rev. James E. Friedmeyer
(419) 299-3097
www.vbpres.org

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR'S NOTES

It was about a month after I had arrived as the new pastor when a woman in the congregation called me and told me that her son who was a senior in high school was resistant to coming to worship. He had told her "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian." That is a true statement. Attending worship is not what makes a person a Christian. As I've heard it said, "Going to church doesn't make one a Christian just as standing in a garage doesn't make one a car." While attending worship is not a requirement for being a Christian, attending worship is a requirement for being a strong Christian. A person becomes a Christian by entering into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ by accepting Christ as Savior and Lord. But to grow strong, one needs nourishment. An individual can read the Bible and watch preachers on television, but that is not a complete diet. One can live on bread and water, but to be really healthy one also needs fruits and vegetables. The one will help you to get by, while the other helps your body to grow stronger.

Attending worship is more than just what you receive. We call it a worship service, because our worship is a part of our service, our offering to God. To truly be in worship means that we are giving a part of ourselves to God as we gather to read the Word, to pray together, to lift our voices in song and to share in the sacraments. We gather in worship to offer our service to God. And that will result in offering ourselves in service to others.

With that said, we must always remember that worship is not about us, but about God. When we gather the focus is not about what we will get out of it but rather about honoring God. We gather to offer our praise and our love to the triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We should be nourished by our time of worship, but the main reason we worship is to honor God. When we worship we are demonstrating our love for Jesus Christ.

Get out your Bible and turn to the book of Hebrews. Read chapter 10 verses 19-25. In verse 24 the writer challenges us: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." He didn't say to look for ways to make you feel better or to do good deeds, but we are called to "spur one another on". We each play a role in spurring others on through our worship. And on in verse 25: Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." A part of our worship is to encourage our sisters and brothers in Christ.

One way in which we encourage others is by our own presence. Just being there is an encouragement to our brothers and sisters. Regular attendance will be an encouragement to the others we worship with. You may not feel like you have a lot to offer, or that you won't make a difference, but you do. Your presence alone will lift the spirits of others and your absence will help to steal the hopes of others. It doesn't matter if you can sing well or poorly, the lifting of your voice is a gift to God and it will encourage others in lifting their voices in praise as well.

What goes through your mind as you decide to come to worship? You will worship if you don't have something better or more fun to do? You will worship only if you are happy and life is not difficult? You decide about worship by considering what you will get out of it - will it make you feel good?

Let your worship be your gift to God and to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Your presence is an act of love to God and an act of encouragement to others in the church. When you approach worship as your offering to God, and you are offering him your very best, then you will be open to receive the blessing of God's presence and action in your life. You will move from eating bread and water to feasting at the great buffet of God's table.

You do not have to worship to be a Christian, but you do need to worship to be a good Christian. Make worship a priority in your life. Make it your goal to be in worship as often as you can, perhaps even weekly. Then you will see the fruit of Christ forming in your life.

God bless,
Pastor Jim

POTLUCK

Plan to join us after worship on Sunday, June 26 for a potluck and special program. Erika Friedmeyer will be home from China and will present highlights of her trip in a slideshow. She may even treat us to some authentic Chinese cooking.

So, bring a dish to share and plan to spend an hour or two "traveling" with your church family.



Colleen McCormick, Salutatorian, from Van Buren High School. Colleen will be attending Eastern Michigan University in the fall.

Litter Landing Recyclable Trailer

Our next Recycling Day is Saturday, June 11 from 9:00 - 3:00. Items that can be recycled are clear and brown glass, steel and aluminum cans, newspaper and office paper, magazines and flattened cardboard. There is a sign up sheet located at the back of the sanctuary for volunteers. If you are available to work some time during that day, please be sure to sign up. This is a great way to serve our community.

Canned Soup Drive

We are still collecting canned soup and canned fruit for Chopin Hall. As a small congregation we have donated a nice number of cans already. But hunger continues in our community. Please continue to purchase a couple of extra cans when you do your shopping, so that others may eat as well.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

This group will not meet during the summer months but plan on some special activities at different times. These will be announced and put in the bulletin. We had a very successful Village Garage Sale day. We served food and had a bake sale. We made close to \$5000.00 for the Mobile Food Pantry. We have completed six chapters of our study book "A Gentle Thunder" by Max Lucado. When we resume our regular meeting in September when we will study chapter 7 titled "For Longer than Forever." We hope everyone has a great summer and be sure to watch for special activities to be announced.

FROM THE SESSION

Session will hold their annual combined meeting of session and deacons on Tuesday, May 31. This is a good time to review the work of the church and have input from both groups. The pastor will be gone Sunday, June 12. He and Jenni will be picking up Erika in Chicago and bringing her home after her stay in China. Everyone will be so glad to have her home again. Rev. Susan Meier will fill the pulpit on Sunday, June 12. This is Pentecost Sunday and we encourage everyone to wear red on this day as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Red Cross Bloodmobile held at the church on May 11 was considered a success. We collected 16 units of blood. Our goal was 21 but we were satisfied with what we received. We thank everyone who helped with this and those who donated blood. The need continues to be great.

Be sure to include the church, its officers and the pastor in your prayers. It makes a difference.

June Birthdays

- 2 Noah Stump
- 5 Frick Hoadley
- 7 Amy Sammet
- 9 Ruthann Luke
- 18 Mick Luke
- 30 Landon Miller



June Anniversaries

- 21 Michael & Jennifer Stump
- 22 Mike & Melanie Martin

***If your birthday or anniversary was missed, please let the church office know so that we can get our records straight. Thank you.**

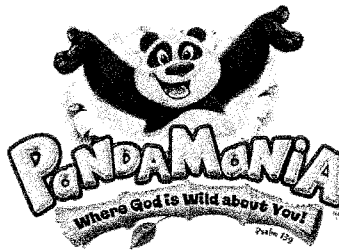
June Worship Helpers

Deacon of the Month - Ashley Sammet

Greeters

Lay Readers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Terry & Amy Sammet | 5 Rosine Harris |
| 12 Dixie Stump | 12 Amy Sammet |
| 19 Linda & Tricia Wilkinson | 19 Jenni Friedmeyer |
| 26 Ralph & Donny Middleton | 26 _____ |



Vacation Bible School

Our PandaMania Bible School is getting closer! Everyone is getting geared up to visit PandaMania, where God is wild

about you! Kids will discover that God is active in our lives through Bible Adventures, high-energy Bible songs, hands-on learning activities, and Chadder's Movie Mania. They also will get to enjoy scrumptious snacks! Adults can join us too! We will be holding our adult class again this year, so everyone can come join in on the fun at VBS! The adult class will be held at VBUMC.

We will be doing 2 mission outreaches this year. We will be working with Mission Possible and collecting money for their "Lunches for Haiti" program. We will also be collecting children's underwear for Chopin Hall. All sizes of boys and girls underwear are needed, but they are particularly short of large sizes - like size 16 for boys and girls.

Vacation Bible School for the churches in Van Buren will be held next month starting Sunday, July 17th through Thursday, July 21st at our church. The final program will be held Friday, July 22nd at 7:00 P.M. Begin looking for registration forms around the middle of June. Sign up sheets will also be posted for snack donations and the Adult Class. We still need some helpers, so if you are interested please contact Angie Fenstermaker (419-788-1802) or Amy Sammet (419-425-3704).

Our next VBS meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21st at 7:00 P.M.

Here is a list of some of the items that we need for VBS this year. If you see something on the list that we could borrow for the week, that would be greatly appreciated. Items may be donated as well.

- 2 liter water bottles 5 - 10
- Spray bottles 5 - 10
- Blindfolds 15 - 20
- Beach towels 10-15
- Large bowls 5
- 16 oz. cups 5 - 10
- Stuffed panda toys
- Marbles 5 - 10
- Bows/Wrapping paper & silly string
- Volleyball Net
- Variety of balls
- Large trash bag

We could also use cookies for the night of the final program.

Don't forget your offering during the busyness of summer. We may go on vacation, but the church's bills do not!

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