

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's group met on March 8 and made some plans for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. This will be held on March 28. We will be serving this with the women of the Van Buren and Salem United Methodist Churches.

This is an annual event that we share with the Methodist women. We will be providing cookies as well as salad and cheese cubes. We need some cookie bakers so if you can bake some cookies for us let Rosine know.

There will be things to prepare for the Maundy Thursday supper and we are planning for that. Also the Village Garage Sale on May 7. We plan to have a bake sale, garage sale items and possibly serve food. Springtime is busy!

We completed chapter 4 of our study titles "Miracle at Midnight". The study for the April 12 meeting is "The Secret of Forgiveness", the God of Great Grace. These studies are from the Max Lucado book "A Gentle Thunder". Please come and join us for these great lessons. We have a lot of discussion and sharing with each other. Next meeting is April 12 at 7:00 pm.

### FROM THE SESSION

The regular meeting of session for March was the date of assessment for the New Beginnings group. Members of session and from the congregation met with the representatives for this program on March 15. There were afternoon and evening meetings. There were a lot of questions and also answers to help us find out how we are doing and how we are doing it. All of the information will be put together and there will be a review of that at a retreat on April 15 and 16. This will be attended by session members and the pastor. We appreciate the participation of the members of the church who attended the March 15 meeting. This is an ongoing program and there will be many more things to do as we plan to move the church forward. Please pray for the session members, Pastor Jim, and the church. We have a big job ahead of us as we look to the future.

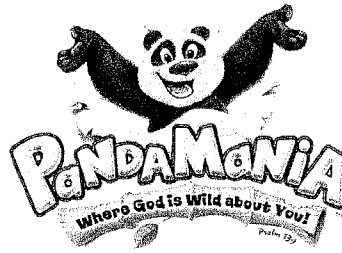
### Ohio Northern University's Son's Rays

On March 13<sup>th</sup> we hosted Ohio Northern university's Son's Rays and we were treated to a wonderful performance from the kids.

We also had a soup and sandwich supper that evening before the concert. The proceeds from the concert will go towards the Mobile Food Pantry we will be hosting in November.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the soup and sandwich supper. We had a great turn out that evening and we couldn't have done it without everyone's help.

Amy Sammet



### Vacation Bible School

We will be hosting VBS this year. Our church will be invaded by a pack of fun-loving panda bears and we are going to have a

wild celebration of God's unconditional love! At PandaMania VBS, kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that he crafted each of us with his own loving hands.

Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The final program will be held on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are still looking for a few volunteers to help with VBS this summer. Our first VBS meeting will be on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please plan to be a part of VBS this year. It is always an awesome experience.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during Lent. The offering is divided among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Fund, and the Self-Development of people fund. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this special offering.

### Church Clean Up Day

Don't forget to mark Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. We will be working to clean the church that day. We will have coffee, juice and donuts before we begin and we will also have a light lunch for all the volunteers. We plan to begin around 9:00. The more volunteers we have that day the faster we will finish up. Hope to see you there.

### April Birthdays

- 4 Allen Stahl
- 7 Susan Stahl
- 12 Terry Sammet
- 18 Nikki Harris
- Jonathan Woodward
- 29 Vera Clark

### April Anniversaries

- 3 Jeff and Annette Peterman

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

### April Worship Helpers

Deacon of the Month - Ashley Sammet

**Greeters** **Lay Readers**

- |                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 3 Donna Ollendorf     | 3 _____  |
| 10 Jim Kuhlman        | 10 _____ |
| 17 Sheri & Pam Norris | 17 _____ |
| 24 Terry & Amy Sammet | 24 _____ |



Van Buren Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 35  
207 W. Market Street  
Van Buren Ohio 45889

# Van Buren Presbyterian Church

## April 2011

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

Rev. James E. Friedmeyer  
(419) 299-3097  
[www.vbpres.org](http://www.vbpres.org)

Sunday School 9:15 am

Gathering Praise and Worship 10:15 a.m.

### PASTOR'S NOTES

As I write this the sky is cloudy and a few rain drops are falling to the ground. But the past few days have been glorious. The sun has been shining, the air warm, and it has been dry. Such a change from the weather we've had this winter. Spring fever is on the rise. The other day Jenni and I walked around our yard taking note of the new life that is springing up. The daffodils are about eight inches high, some of the crocuses are blooming, the lilies are breaking through the ground, and the lilac bush has buds. What an exciting time.

When we lived in Iowa I came to appreciate the wonder of spring. All winter the fields looked empty and dreary. As the farmers turned the soil the richness of that dark soil rolled to the top. And it wasn't long after that the new plants started poking up out of that rich soil and the plants completed the transformation of the fields from grey to green.

Come the end of April we celebrate new life as we celebrate the Day of Resurrection - Easter Sunday. The clouds came on Saturday as Jesus hung on the cross. I don't know the weather on Saturday, but the disciples were in a fog. Then came Sunday morning, the clouds rolled away like the stone at the tomb and the radiance of the glory of God shone across the world. The light of the resurrected Christ flooded the world.

As Christians we have found that life, that new life. In Christ we have found a rebirth as God's children. Born not of human will, but rather born of the Spirit. As one accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, one enters the light of his glory. As we surrender our will to his will, we start to identify ourselves in him. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore in anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

This Easter celebrate your new life in Christ Jesus!

Even as Christians, as we live our lives we experience various seasons. We experience the joy of Spring, the growth and maturing of Summer, the change of Fall, and the grey dreariness of Winter. Some of those seasons will seem to last forever, some will pass quicker than we want. We will pass through those seasons at various times in our lives. Even in those long, grey, dreary days of winter, we have to keep our eyes focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and the new life that he brings into our lives in the Spring.

That is when we have to turn our minds to Christ and put on the new self. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:22-24: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

This Easter, take off the old self and put on the new self. Let the new life in Christ blossom in your life. Not just on that one day, but every day. As you pass through the seasons of life, always remember to be proactive and seek the new self that Christ is making you. You should not be the same person today as you were on the day you invited Christ into your life. And next year you should be a different person than you are today. We do not become a Christian and everything is finished. Being a Christian is a life long process, and it involves constant change. In Christ we are becoming new creatures, becoming the person God desires. We move not toward self-fulfillment, but to the goal that we are given in Scripture as we read in 1 Peter 1:15-16: "But just as he who calls you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

The plants are pushing through the ground. Spring has come and life is returning. Let the life of Christ grow in you. Celebrate the new life you have in Christ Jesus this Easter! Let that new life bubble up inside of you. And let the Spirit mold you to become the person God desires you to become. God raised Jesus from the dead. Let God raise you as well.

Live the rich new life in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

### Canned Soup Drive

We are still collecting canned soup and canned fruit for Chopin Hall. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, I dropped off 44 more cans of soup and 14 cans of fruit. As always, they were very appreciative to receive the food.

### Litter Landing Recyclable Trailer

Our next Recycling Day is Saturday, April 9 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. The trailer does need to be manned the entire time it is there in case anyone needs help unloading their recyclable items or has any questions. 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.

One  
great hour  
of sharing

Your gift of \$20 can help a Haitian villager purchase a pair of goats which can help support his family with milk and offspring;

*It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.*

### Garage Sale Day is Coming!

Saturday, May 7 is Van Buren Garage Sale Day and our church will participate by having serving lunch and a bake sale. Our cooks are well known for their culinary prowess, and we want to give Van Buren something special to enjoy this spring. SO! Warm up those ovens, get out those recipes, and plan to come help that day. Garage sale items will be accepted only if someone steps forward to head up the garage sale portion. Please bring your baked good items to the church Friday evening or by 8:00 am Saturday morning. Please have your baked goods priced. We will also need volunteers to help that day. If you would be willing to work with the garage sale portion, please contact Amy Sammet - [tsammet@woh.rr.com](mailto:tsammet@woh.rr.com). Hours are planned to be 9 am - 3 pm.