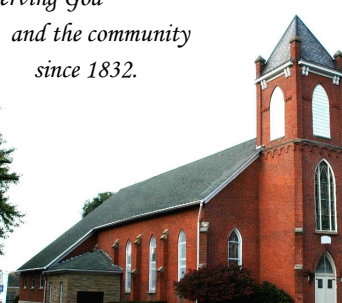


*Serving God
and the community
since 1832.*



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March Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 3

Church Leadership

Pastor.....	Rev. Mike Wilson
Music Director.....	Chris Thomas
Organist.....	Joyce Kriner
Secretary.....	Mary Stewart
Custodian & Librarian.....	Eileen Kriner
Treasurer.....	Barbara Griffith

Co-Clerks of Session.....	Gil and Marlene Long
Membership Care & Development.....	Brian Griffith
Mission/Outreach.....	Ann Nesgoda
Nominating & Training.....	Don Duckett
Personnel.....	Sue Kellerman Gil Long Scott Shunk
Property.....	Bob Kellerman Dave Maille
Spiritual Formation.....	Jennifer Wedzik
Stewardship & Finance.....	Dave Maille Bob Kellerman Barb Griffith
Worship.....	Scott Shunk Gil Long Jared Mosier
Recording Secretary.....	Cindy Skladanowski

Chairperson.....	Bill Nesgoda
Vice-Chair.....	Nancy Way
Secretary.....	Nancy Way
Treasurer.....	Peggie Smith
Caring Tree.....	Nancy Way and Bill Nesgoda
Correspondence.....	Linda DeAngelo
Flower Coordinator.....	Sally Wakeley
Funeral Dinners.....	Sue Beighley and Deacon of the Month
Greeters/Liturgists.....	Deacon of the Month
Prayer Chain.....	Pat Feddersen and Nancy McNally

In January at Emmanuel and February at Harborcreek we ordained and installed ruling elders and deacons. And among the questions asked are: “Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?” and “Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?”

Everyone always answers “I do and I will.” But do they, really? Might they be stretching the meaning of “sincerely?” Same with pastors. We’re asked the same questions at our ordinations and installations and we give the same answers. But I can say sincerely that we rarely pull the Book of Confessions off the shelf and seek their guidance. Often our study of the confessions ends after we pass our ordination exams. But there is much to commend the Confessions to both ordained leaders and regular members.



What We Believe

For the uninitiated, the Book of Confessions [BoC] is Part One of our PC(USA) constitution; The Book of Order is Part Two. And the BoC is a remarkable collection of theological statements – twelve in all – that expresses the faith of the church and serves as a history of what we believe and what we have believed. Some of the confessions are short, some quite long. Some deal with very particular matters of belief or practice while others are exhaustive examinations of everything we believe or believed. Some are really old, others relatively new. The oldest and first in the collection is the Nicene Creed (c. 325 CE). It's followed by perhaps the best known confession, the Apostles' Creed, which in its present form dates to the 8th century CE. Both of those are considered “ecumenical” because they are accepted by the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant branches of the church.

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Others are specifically Protestant, Reformed or Presbyterian and they vary in purpose and intention. Some are to be used liturgically in worship; some were written to defend orthodoxy. Others, like the Heidelberg and Westminster Catechisms, are instructional. In times of danger or persecution, whether of the church or of people, confessions like The Theological Declaration of Barmen or The Belhar Confession are meant to strengthen and clarify faithfulness to the Gospel. The Confession of 1967 was written as a response to the social and political changes of the 1960s while A Brief Statement of faith was composed when the northern and southern branches of Presbyterianism reunited in 1983.

And even a quick survey will show that many of the Confessions have historical limitations and express beliefs and even prejudices that we no longer hold. For instance, the Scots Confession is very anti-Catholic and the Second Helvetic Confession forbids women to preach or administer the sacraments. And there are a host of theological doctrines and issues in some of the earlier confessions that have been denied, revised or nuanced by later ones. In that sense, the BoC is a historical record of our evolving faith and practice in light of God's ongoing revelation and our continued engagement with Scripture and the realities of our world. The BoC helps us know who we are by reminding us of who we have been.

So, if your interest in the Book of Confessions has been piqued, you can download one for free! Go to: www.pcusa.org/resource/book-confessions/ And you can either dive right in by scrolling to the Nicene Creed or you can spend some time with the Preface, which goes in-depth on some of what I've covered above. And if you are a ruling elder or deacon, you can now uncross your fingers as you say "I do" and "I will!"

Grace and peace,



Lectionary Readings March 2024

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for this month.

Sunday, March 3, 2024 <i>Exodus 20:1-17</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</i>	3rd Sunday in Lent <i>Psalm 19</i> <i>John 2:13-22</i>
Sunday, March 10, 2024 <i>Numbers 21:4-9</i> <i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i>	4th Sunday in Lent <i>Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22</i> <i>John 3:14-21</i>
Sunday, March 17, 2024 <i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i> <i>or Psalm 119:9-16</i> <i>John 12:20-33</i>	5th Sunday in Lent <i>Psalm 51:1-12</i> <i>Hebrews 5:5-10</i>
Sunday, March 24, 2024 Liturgy of the Palms <i>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</i> <i>or John 12:12-16</i> Liturgy of the Passion <i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i> <i>Philippians 2:5-11</i> <i>or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)</i>	Palm/Passion Sunday <i>Mark 11:1-11</i> <i>Psalm 31:9-16</i> <i>Mark 14:1-15:47</i>
Thursday, March 28 <i>Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14</i> <i>Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19</i> <i>1 Corinthians 11:23-26</i>	Maundy Thursday <i>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>
Friday, March 29 <i>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</i> <i>Hebrews 10:16-25 or</i> <i>John 18:1-19:42</i>	Good Friday <i>Psalm 22</i> <i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i>
Sunday, March 31 <i>Acts 10:34-43 or</i> <i>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</i> <i>or Acts 10:34-43</i> <i>or Mark 16:1-8</i>	Resurrection of the Lord <i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i> <i>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</i> <i>John 20:1-18</i>

March Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., March 3	Christine Thomas	Hedlund Family
Sun., March 10	Nancy McNally	Barker Family
Sun., March 17	Scott Shunk	Linda Blum
Sun., March 24	Don Duckett	Jack & Joy Mosier
Thurs. March 28	Bill Nesgoda	Ann Nesgoda
Sun., March 31	Brian Griffith	TBA

Lent and Holy Week



Sunday, March 3

Sacrament of the
Lord's Supper
11:00 a.m.



Sunday, March 10

Daylight Savings
Begins
Turn your clocks ahead.

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday
11:00 a.m.



Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m.
at Harborcreek Church

Friday, March 29

Good Friday
7:00 p.m.
at Emmanuel Church



News from Session

The Elder of the Month for March is Gil Long.

A Birthday Party for members born in January and February was held after service on February 11. Approximately 40 people enjoyed light refreshments and fellowship.

Work to refurbish the Lounge area behind the kitchen downstairs will commence soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Gil Long, Clerk

Jesus is Risen! Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, March 31

Easter Breakfast
9:15 a.m.

Easter Worship Celebration
11:00 a.m.



Ella Cochran Food Pantry Easter Bags

As Easter approaches we are reminded that some of our Harborcreek neighbors will have difficulty providing an Easter dinner for their family. We can help. The Food Pantry will supply each family with a ham. We are being asked to provide the rest of the meal. There are brown grocery bags available that the back of the sanctuary with a shopping list attached. If you are able to

help, please return the filled bag to the church by Sunday, March 17. Thank you!



Church News...

MEMBERSHIP CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Please mark your calendar for our next **"BIRTHDAY SUNDAY"** to be held on March 10 after church. We will celebrate all those having a birthday in March.

All are invited to our annual **Easter Breakfast** at 9:15 a.m., Sunday, March 31st. Menu will be scrambled eggs and ham with some sweets for dessert. Please join us for some good fellowshipand FOOD!

4th Tuesday Gathering, March 26th: Spring is just around the corner (according to Punxsutawney Phil!) so naturally our thoughts turn to our gardens. Please join us in March for an informational chat with Terry Lemke from Stan's Garden Center. Terry will give us great advice on how to "make our gardens grow".

Hope to see you all on March 26th at 11:30 a.m. at Harborcreek Church.

We want to give a warm HPC welcome to our newest member, Tiffany Kephart. We are very excited to have you join our fellowship of faith.

Welcome, Tiffany!

Prayer

We, as a church family, care deeply about you and your family and friends. Through our Prayer Chain we can surround those in need with prayer.

As we reorganize our chain, we invite you to join us in two ways:

1. If you would like to join the ministry of the prayer chain and receive prayer requests either by phone or text message, please call Pat Feddersen at 814-899-6054 or Nancy McNally at 814-450-2577 and have your name added to the list.
2. And if you have a prayer request do not hesitate to call either Pat or Nancy with your need. You need to let them know what information can be shared and if you want to add a name to the prayer list in the bulletin and newsletter.



Media Ministry

Did you know that you can share our live streams anytime?

Sharing is the most important part of our streaming service and promoting the Good News. Streaming the service is meant for people out in the community, people who may need God's Word and encouragement. This past year we had someone from Myanmar that was baptized after watching our services for 2 years. We can reach people! We have new viewers on Sundays that have never attended our church before. **Please Share our Sunday Live streams anytime during the week!** Share our Sunday services with everyone you can. It takes less than 5 minutes to share, remember share to everyone because you never know who may want and need it. Currently there are only 2-3 people that share our services out of 100+ members. Each Sunday we have about 15 that view our church service during the live stream and about 150+ views during the week. If you have not been able to attend in person on some Sundays, it is pretty nice to be able to watch from home anytime during the week. Please share on Facebook and/or YouTube. Reaching one person in need is worth the share. I know Robin has said Presbyterians invite someone to church about once every 27 years or so, but every week we can invite 200-300 people per member on your friends list? Think about that, 2-5k people being invited to watch every week, also there are more people watching from YouTube now with smart TVs and the YouTube app, so please Like and Subscribe.

Spiritual Formation...



Join us for Breakfast and a Movie every Sunday morning. Breakfast starts at 9:15, with the movie starting at 9:45.

Watch Sunday bulletins for more information.
Come join us!



Wine and The Word
March 10 and 24, 2024
6:00 p.m.
On via Zoom

Our Wine & The Word series continues, we'll explore The Lord's Prayer with particular focus on its contexts in Matthew and Luke, its seven petitions and doxology, how it fits within the Apostle Paul's theological framework, its relevance and urgency for us today...and yes, we'll talk about debts, trespasses and sins.

After today our next sessions will be, March 10 and March 24. Pastor Mike will lead the sessions. Please message him at pastormike@hcpresbyterian.org if you would like to participate and he'll send you the Zoom link.



2024 LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST

Churches & Pastors, Commissioned Pastors (CP),
Members-at-Large (MAL),
Honorably Retired (HR),
Validated Ministry (VM) & Other Leadership

March 3	Erie, Belle Valley and Elmwood Avenue Rev. Dave Edmunds, Temporary Supply Pastor	Marsha MacKinnon Presbytery Webmaster, Presbytery of Lake Erie
March 10	Rev. Dr. Lawson Dzanko, Clerk of the General Assembly, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana	Rt. Rev. Lt. Col. Bliss Divine Agbeko {Rtd.}, Moderator of the G.A., Evangelical Church, Ghana
March 17	Rev. Barry Cressman (HR) Rev. Jim Haas (HR)	Rev. Jim McCormack (HR) Rev. Mary Louise McCullough (HR)
March 24	Waterford Rev. Robin Sharp, Pastor	Family of Rev. Sheldon Logan (recently deceased) Rev. Chuck Cammarata (HR)
March 31	Tionesta: Roger Snyder and Kevin Vinson, preaching	12 Members of the Commission to Unify the Office of G.A. and Presbytery Mission Agency



Lenten Word Search

Alleluia
Crown of Thorns
Crucifixion
Easter
Empty Tomb
Good Friday
He is risen
Holy Week
Jesus
Lamb
Lent
Maundy Thursday
Resurrection
Savior
Spring

W	H	S	M	G	X	P	O	E	M	Y	O	F	U	A	N	Y
U	K	O	G	A	A	K	M	O	H	Q	P	S	O	I	S	A
Y	S	U	Y	D	U	P	Y	W	W	L	S	V	W	P	N	D
K	O	B	N	U	T	N	Q	H	N	R	T	N	R	F	J	I
B	F	P	Y	Y	J	W	D	G	D	Y	O	I	C	A	O	R
M	G	O	T	S	V	R	A	Y	K	I	N	I	I	H	E	F
C	W	O	W	I	E	E	O	R	T	G	R	U	V	T	J	D
E	M	B	M	A	L	N	P	C	H	H	L	P	S	A	E	O
B	D	Z	C	D	I	O	E	R	O	E	U	A	I	X	S	O
R	O	H	E	A	T	R	L	X	L	D	E	R	C	R	U	G
W	S	G	V	R	R	J	C	L	Y	L	H	B	S	L	S	B
O	U	F	Y	U	I	K	A	M	W	S	F	S	W	D	L	V
H	E	I	S	R	I	S	E	N	E	Y	T	R	I	L	A	V
L	T	E	H	U	T	R	X	A	E	N	L	F	W	Q	E	Y
E	R	G	T	N	X	V	M	Z	K	U	J	M	T	E	J	I
N	X	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	T	S	G	G
T	S	N	R	O	H	T	F	O	N	W	O	R	C	I	G	L



Reuse
Recycle
Repurpose

We are still receiving donations for special mission projects. This is an easy way to make a big difference in the lives of people in our community and around the world! Just collect and drop off at church.

♥**Aluminum Cans** for the Dick Smith Fund to benefit community members with emergency needs.

♥**Travel Sized Personal Care Products** to be given to the homeless at The Upper Room.

♥**Cancelled Stamps** Here is an easy way to help others—by saving your cancelled stamps on from the mail you receive. Simply cut them out (please leave a large border) and place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

♥**Used Greeting Cards** to be sent to be sent to St Jude's Ranch for them to repurpose and sell in their gift shop and on their website. Please do not cut cards or change cards in anyway. They need them whole for them to be transformed.

Church Family News...



March Birthdays

- 1 Aye Mosier
- 2 Carrie Woodard
- 2 Mary Skladanowski
- 4 Bill Nesgoda
- 6 Ron Flowers
- 10 Ann Nesgoda
- 13 Jacque Foust
- 16 Bonnie Duckett
- 18 Linda DeAngelo
- 20 John Erickson
- 22 Ron Washe
- 24 Dave Maille
- 28 Amy Erickson



March Anniversaries

- 17 Don & Bonnie Duckett



Prayer List: For those serving in the armed forces: Adam Bojarski (Suter). For the Lake Erie Presbytery & its leaders; for our pastor, Mike Wilson, for church members, family & friends, we pray.

If someone can be removed from the prayer list or if you have someone to add, please call or email the church office with the information.

Barb Bemis	Morgan Johnson	Cindy Skladanowski
Claudia Brown	Family of	Sandy Spangler
John Brown	Rev. Tim Logan	Rich Smith
Margaret Crider	David Lyon	Carl Steiner
Robin Cuneo	Matthew Mackowski	Sandy Stewart
Dave English	Dick May	Marge Suter
Fannin Family	Mellish Family	Tina Wasiela
Joan Graham	Yvonne Peters	Abigail Wilkinson
Judy Johnson	Wilda Resinger	

Remember Our Homebound

Some of you have asked about what you can do to keep connected to those who struggle to come to worship or participate in church activities. Listed below are some of those you could send a card or a note of encouragement.

Margaret Crider Twinbrook Room 212 3805 Field Street Erie, PA 16511	Jessie Dennison Wellmore Unit 4129 580 Robert Daniel Drive Daniel Island, SC 29492	Jacque Foust 8467 East Lake Rd. Erie, PA 16511
Dick May 6568 Iroquois Avenue Harborcreek, PA 16421	Peggy Nelson 2 Gibson St. Apt. 102 North East, PA 16428	Esther Noonan 7554 McGill Road Harborcreek, PA 16421
Yvonne Peters 3913 Dexter Avenue Erie, PA 16504	Wilda Resinger 5456 East Lake Road Barnabas Court South Room 120	Sandy Spangler 227 W. 22nd Street Room 9 Erie, PA 16509
Carl Steiner c/o Heather Steiner 4847 Tamarlac Lane Erie, PA 16505		
Ron Washe 4147 Bell Street Erie, PA 16511		

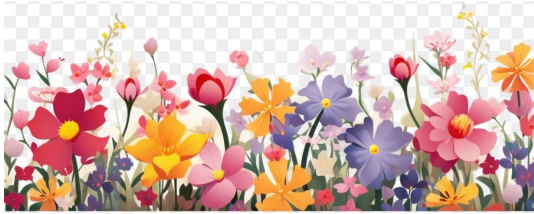


Church Office Hours

Pastor Mike is usually in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays around 9:00 a.m. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Mike at 412-298-9196.

The secretary's regular office hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There may be times that the hours may be changed; Please call the church office to verify.

Church Office Phone number:
814-899-1031
New Email Address:
office@hcpresbyterian.org
Website: hcpresbyterian.org



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Every Sunday Morning: 9:15 a.m. Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Children’s Sunday School and Adult Sunday School/Movie 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship				1	2
3	4 Women’s AA 5:00 p.m.	5	6	7	8	9
10 Birthday Sunday after Worship <i>Wine and the Word</i> 6:00 p.m. via Zoom	11 Deacon’s Meeting 2:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women’s AA 5:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Women’s AA 5:00 p.m.	19	20	21 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00 p.m.	22	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>  <i>Wine and the Word</i> 6:00 p.m. via Zoom	25 <i>March Newsletter Information Due</i> Women’s AA 5:00 p.m.	26 4th Tuesday Fellowship 11:30 a.m. at Harborcreek	27	28  <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. at Harborcreek	29  Good Friday 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel	30
31 Easter Breakfast 9:15 a.m. <i>Resurrection Sunday</i>			Elder of the Month: Gil Long 814-440-9457 Deacon of the Month: Bill Nesgoda 814-602-6504			
Rev. Wilson on vacation after worship on March 31 through Sunday, April 7 th						