



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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September Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 8

Church Leadership

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

Committee Chairs—2023

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

Deacons

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



First Presbyterian Church of
Harborcreek

Message from the Pastor



I've started serving on the presbytery's committee on ministry and one of our responsibilities is meeting with and approving pastors who have been called by one of our churches. That's because ministers of Word and Sacrament are members of presbyteries and, as the Book of Order states, "no pastoral relationship may be established, changed, or dissolved without the approval of the presbytery." I can imagine that in some bygone era, those examinations were rigorous, confrontational or scary. Today they are friendly affairs where we get to know someone we will joyfully welcome into service in our bounds.

At our last meeting we welcomed two new pastors, one for the Meadville church and one for the Warren church. And one of them is *not* Presbyterian. That's because our denomination, the PCUSA, is in "full communion" with other denominations that allow us to share clergy who are able to exercise every pastoral, ecclesiastical and liturgical roll. They include The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The United Church of Christ, The Reformed Church in America, and The Moravian Church.

So, the Warren church is calling a Lutheran – perfectly legit. And during our wide-ranging conversation with her she used the word altar. I said, "I'm sure you know that Presbyterian churches don't have altars," and asked how she reconciles the theological differences between the Lutheran and Presbyterian understandings of the Lord's Supper. Now, to be clear, I knew that she knew that there are no altars in Presbyterian churches; she is not new to service in our denomination. But she is smart and engaging and I knew she'd have a good answer. So, our back-and-forth was enjoyable and informative.



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And perhaps I might digress and explain that while some Presbyterians may casually refer to the front of the church generally as the altar, it is really called the chancel. And the place from which we celebrate the Lord's Supper on a table. That's because altars are places of sacrifice and we believe that Jesus's sacrifice on the cross was a one-time event that doesn't need to be repeated, even liturgically or symbolically. But in Lutheran churches it is an altar (and while I have some understanding of their theology, I won't risk trying to explain it here).

Anyway, the new Warren pastor, in addition understanding our theology of communion, also expressed an appreciation for the variety of liturgies we can use with the sacrament. Lutherans are limited to set of prescribed liturgies and set prayers, while Presbyterians enjoy immense freedom. And I'm sure you've noticed that I've used many different settings for our Lord's Supper celebrations. Some long, some short. Some ancient, some modern. Most written by others and a handful that I've written myself. I try to find or write communion prayers that reflect the season or where we are on the liturgical calendar. For instance, we celebrate the sacrament on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday, just a few days apart. But the Thursday tone is more somber, sacrificial and penitential – more Last Supper-y – while on Sunday it's a truly joyful celebration of Christ's victory over death. A liturgy on World Communion Sunday may reflect the bounty of the harvest and our connection to other Christians. On Pentecost, the liturgy may focus on the work of the Holy Spirit. And while it's uncommon, Presbyterians can include communion as part of weddings and funerals. Mary Louise and I, for instance, had communion at our wedding and, while we could not officiate at the table because we were not ordained, we did get permission to serve; the first thing we did (after kissing) as a married couple was serve our family, friends and each other.

There is one Lutheran practice that I'm a bit envious of: weekly communion. That frequency is rare for Presbyterians even though it is commended by the Book of Order. We are required to have it no less than quarterly and there are some churches that stick to that.

I suppose what's on my mind this month is liturgical freedom and variety. Our Directory for Worship tells us what the essential and required elements of worship are but it offers incredible latitude on how those elements are expressed. In fact, it encourages expansive worship that incorporates a wide variety of images, music, prayers, liturgies, movement, and more. Our language about God should be "intentionally as diverse and varied as the Bible and our theological traditions." We're encouraged to remember that "language that authentically describes and addresses the people of God is inclusive, respecting the diversity of persons, cultures, backgrounds, and experiences that flow from God's creative work."

All of this is to say that as we continue our journey together, I hope that we can push our boundaries a little. Try some new things and see what works and what doesn't. Give ourselves over to new experiences and expressions knowing that we get fifty-two Sundays a year and if something isn't for you one week, we get to try again in just seven days. The worship committee met last week and we talked about a couple rather different services we'll present in the coming liturgical year. And we'd love to hear from you about things you've experienced that we might incorporate in our worship...even if it's from Lutherans!

Grace and peace,



Don't Forget Starting
Sunday, September 8, 2024
our worship time will change to 9:15 a.m.

Worship News...

Attention Singers, toe tappers, and whistlers:



Chancel choir practice will resume on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:00. Handbells practice will follow at 7:00. Welcome back!

We welcome new members at any time. Questions? Contact Chris at 814-504-8349 or famothom3@gmail.com.



September Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., Sept. 1	Eileen Kriner	Bob & Linda DeAngelo
Sun., Sept. 8	Brian Griffith	Cindy Skladanowski
Sun., Sept. 15	Chris Thomas	Becky Johnson and Ann Nesgoda
Sun., Sept. 22	Gil Long	Sue Beighley
Sun., Sept. 29	Marlene Long	Peggie Smith



World Communion Sunday October 6, 2024

World Communion Sunday is a **celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October**, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the eucharist or Lord's Supper.

World Communion symbolized **the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense**. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936.

Lectionary Readings September 2024

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for these months.

Sunday, September 1	15th Sunday after Pentecost
<i>Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9</i> <i>or Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15</i> <i>James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</i>	
Sunday, September 8	16th Sunday after Pentecost
<i>Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125</i> <i>or Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146</i> <i>James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37</i>	
Sunday, September 15	17th Sunday after Pentecost
<i>Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19</i> <i>or Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9</i> <i>James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38</i>	
Sunday, September 22	18th Sunday after Pentecost
<i>Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1</i> <i>or Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54</i> <i>James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38</i>	
Sunday, September 29	19th Sunday after Pentecost
<i>Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124</i> <i>or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14</i> <i>James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50</i>	

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

Mission News

The Upper Room Dinner

We will once again be serving dinner at The Upper Room on September 29. We are planning a hot meal and will need people to serve and load the food into the cars. We will leave the church around 12:20 on that day. Please consider how you can help with this valuable mission project.



Peace & Global Witness Offering

We live in an era of uncertainty. The uncertainty of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, climate change, political polarization and more. The uncertainty of aggression through war, gun violence, human trafficking and international conflict. The uncertainty of employment, inflation, illness — the list goes on.

However, when we think about it, humanity always has in one form or another of uncertainty. Long ago, the Psalmist wrote: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4, NRSV). As a community of faith, we claim God’s promise — that God is with us.



The Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to siblings in Christ who work for peace every day. Your support of

this offering helps encourage our church partners in Ukraine as they struggle against the trauma of war. It helps congregations begin to address the growing mental health crisis and the increase in the number of suicides in their communities. It provides resources for congregations seeking to address issues of gun violence in their communities.

This is why we give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We give because we know that every level of society needs Christ’s peace. From our congregation, where we retain 25% of this offering to support programs in our community; to the region, where 25% is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the Earth, where the remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website (pcusa.org/peace-global) to learn how your support of this offering helps peacemaking efforts both in the U.S. and around the world. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. We are challenged to consider how we might increase our witness and our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 6, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

As Presbyterians, we claim Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness and grace that he shows us. God is with us. May we joyfully bring that peace to all those we care for, love and serve.

Please watch for valuable information about this offering in weeks to come! there will be much available about this worthwhile offering in these troubled times!

The Mission Committee



Study and Fellowship Opportunities

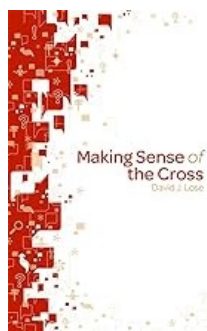


Birthday Sunday for September birthdays will be September 8th after church. Please plan to join your fellow members for some delicious dessert and coffee.

Congregational Meeting: We will have a brief congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, September 15 for the sole purpose of amending our bylaws, changing the terms for ruling elders and deacons from three years to two years and dividing the session and deacons into two classes rather than three.

The provision set by the Book of Order that restricts ruling elders and deacons from serving no more than six consecutive years will remain.

WINE AND THE WORD



Wine and the Word resumes on Sunday, September 8th at 6:00 via Zoom. Anyone can join this fun group so please contact Pastor Mike if you are interested so we can order a book for you. We will start on page 54 of **Making Sense of the Cross**, BUT that is not any deterrent for new people as the book is very easy to join in with everyone. We meet every other Sunday so please feel free to join in....great Christian discussions!!



Brunch (after church) and a Movie will begin on September 15th. Please plan to join us for a delightful brunch followed by a short (30 minute) segment of a Christian movie and short discussion time of fellowship. ALL are welcome.

Fourth Tuesday Gathering details will be announced soon in the bulletin. Watch for exciting news!



Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 12th at 7:00 for the "second annual Talent Night" at the Emmanuel Faith Cafe. There will be songs from both Emmanuel and Harborcreek choirs along with (hopefully) a combined choir song or two. The Harmonizers are rumored to be practicing for this and Pastor Mike is hard at work on some drum solos!

A return engagement from Hank Williams is always a possibility as his set brought down the house last year. Hope to see you all there!

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Faith Lutheran Church will also be hosting a free concert by **Polka Relations** on Monday, September 9, at 7:00, as part of our celebration of our 75th anniversary. All are welcome.

On Monday, September 16, 7:00, Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting a fun and informative presentation by **Dr. Steve Ropski on the grizzly bears of Yellowstone**.

Harborcreek Creek High School Softball is holding a bingo event on September 21st at Harborcreek Fire Hall at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$30 each. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Dena Barker at 814-440-7837.

Oh my goodness! Where to begin...I have always had a special place in my heart for the Harborcreek Presbyterian Church. So many good things have happened to me there, and I have made so many friends, new and lifelong. My heart overflowed with love and gratitude as I read the cards you sent. I was also overwhelmed with your gifts of money. I must say that helped us enormously! I will never forget the love you have shown to Kris and I.

My heart is full!! Love from Marnie

Community Blessing of the Animals Service

**Sunday, September 22, 2:00 p.m.
at the Harborcreek Historical
Society Pavilion, 5661 Buffalo Road**

All creatures great and small are welcome at this informal worship service! Each animal in attendance will receive an individual blessing. We will collect donations for the ANNA Shelter. Please leash or contain your pets. Rain or shine.

Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek.



**Mark your calendars!
Fall Swiss Steak Dinner
November 2, 2024**



**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** The Mission Committee is again saving cancelled postage stamps for a great cause. Please place your **cancelled stamps** in the box provided at the back of the sanctuary and they will be given to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Erie for processing. The stamps will be trimmed and sent to an organization who sells them to buy bibles in other languages.

♥ **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.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our church during Erie Gives. The final numbers are not in, but to date they are reporting \$21,685.

They still need to figure out our percentage of the additional funds that

Thank You!

are divided between the participating non-profits.

FREE ITEMS

There is a "**mobility scooter**" in the manse garage that apparently was used by Rev. Logan. It is available as is for FREE to a member who can use it. If not, it will be donated to a worthy organization.

There is also a **full-size piano** in the manse. It is available for FREE to a member who would use it. If not, it will be donated to a worthy organization/person.

Both items need to have found their new owner by September 24th or before. Contact Bob Kellerman at 717-818-9158.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS PROPERTY UPDATE

Several projects are underway or have recently been completed or are still underway to maintain, upgrade, and enhance the property. Here is a snapshot of recent activity.

- **CHURCH BALCONY** - The support structure that supports the front edge of the balcony in the church needed to be re-enforced and slightly raised. After completion, two new oak beams were constructed to replace the prior support beams.
- **MANSE** - To make the manse ready for its next resident thorough cleanup and some restoration is necessary. On August 24th 13 volunteers morning to this effort. Thanks to all who showed up and helped! Two rooms are to be painted, professional carpet cleaners will clean all carpets, and a top to bottom final cleaning will also be done. The target is for all this to be completed before October 1 st . This beautiful old house will sparkle when we are through.

- **TREE TRIMMING** - This project required the services of a tree trimming and removal contractor to perform a major trimming of the trees around the manse and overhanging the driveway.
- **CHURCH LOUNGE ROOM** - A team of volunteers has been meeting and discussing the approach to making the necessary renovations that will transform this somewhat neglected space into a comfortable, clean, and pleasant space for meetings, gatherings, and enjoyment. This is a MAJOR project. A new dropped ceiling will be required, a cleanup of items stored in this space is needed, the carpet has already been removed and we are hopeful that the exposed wood floors can be restored, the addition of a section of upper and lower cabinetry will be added, and everything painted. When all this is done, we will then ask some of the ladies to help in the furnishing and decoration of the room.

Any contributions earmarked for Building and Grounds are greatly appreciated. Thank You.



Church Family News...



September Birthdays

- 4 Bill Fannin
- 14 Dena Barker
- 24 Bob Mulvin
- 28 Christine Schrimper
- 29 Larry Resinger

September Anniversaries

- 4 Jeremy & Annie Stewart
- 6 Jim & Linda Erickson
- 7 Laura & Jeremy Rockwell
- 11 Dave & Sue Beighley
- 13 Michael & Christine Schrimper
- 14 Kyle and Casey Foust



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 | Joan Graham | Cindy Skladanowski |
| Claudia Brown | Judy Johnson | Sandy Spangler |
| John Brown | Morgan Johnson | Rich Smith |
| Margaret Crider | David Lyon | Carl Steiner |
| Robin Cuneo | Dick May | Marge Suter |
| Dave English | Mellish Family | Tina Wasiela |
| Fannin Famin | Yvonne Peters | Abigail Wilkinson |
| Pat Feddersen | Wilda Resinger | Zanita Zacks-Gabriel |

No Mistakes

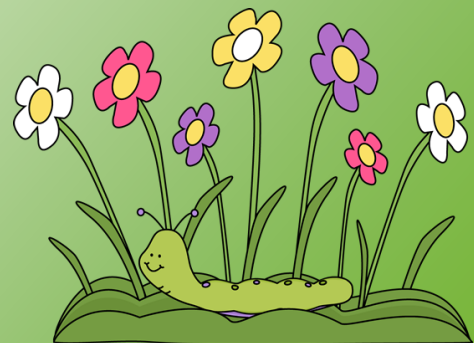
When my hopes fade
And my dreams die.
And I find no answer
By asking why.
I just keep on trusting
And hang on to my faith.
Because God is just
He never makes mistakes.
Should the storms come
And trials I must face.
When I find no solution
I rest in God's grace.
When life seems unfair
And more than I can take.
I look up to the Father
He never makes mistakes.
God sees our struggles
And every bend in the road.
But no mistake is ever made
Cause He weighs every load.

~Lenora McWhorter

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
41 W. Gore Rd. Rm.113
Erie, PA. 16509 | 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 | | |





September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship <i>Worship & Praise</i>	2	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7 Fellowship Hall in use for Bridal Shower 11:30-4:00 p.m.
8 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday Sunday Celebration following worship Wine and the Word via Zoom 6:00 p.m.	9 Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. DEACONS Leading Through Service Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	10	11 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Congregational Meeting following worship Brunch and a Movie following meeting	16 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	17	18 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21
22 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship Blessing of the Animals 2:00 p.m.	23  SESSION MEETING Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	24	25 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	26	27	28
29 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship	30 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	Beginning Sept. 8 every Sunday Morning: In-Person & Live Stream Worship 9:15 a.m. Beginning Sept. 15 Brunch 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School/Movie 10:45 a.m.			Elder of the Month: Bob Kellerman 717-818-9158 Deacon of the Month: Bill Nesgoda 814-602-6504	



Characteristics of Discipleship

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

compassion
 desire
 forbearance
 goodness
 knowledge
 peace
 prayer
 self-control

decision making
 discernment
 generosity
 joy
 love
 permanence
 promptness
 service

depend on Holy Spirit
 faithfulness
 gentleness
 kindness
 obedience to God
 perseverance
 purposefulness
 study scripture