



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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April Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 3

Church Leadership

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

Committee Chairs—2025

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

Deacons

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



First Presbyterian Church of
Harborcreek



Pastor's Message

I recently read a science fiction novel in which the body of a man in his 40s is restored to that of his early 20s, when his body had reached its physical maturity. And his new body hadn't suffered any ill-effects from imperfect diet, lack of exercise, exposure to environmental pollutants, or childhood injuries and diseases – those things that render our bodies imperfect almost from the very beginning. Now living in a perfect body, he realizes that he had always lived with background pain and diminished abilities, even when he thought he was at his physical peak. He thinks about how a bone broken at age 10 affected his performance as a college athlete. How, as we age, our brains compensate for the inevitable build-up of aches and pains so that we're not consciously feeling them all the time. And he wonders what it would be like if we did; perhaps our brains would be overwhelmed.

I wonder if something similar happens to us emotionally and spiritually. All of us bear the scars and traumas of growing up among and living with imperfect people in imperfect circumstances. Certainly we know that children who endure abuse, neglect or bullying will often, as adults, have trouble forming healthy relationships or will wrestle with addiction, depression and anger. But even if we can't point to some obvious or extreme trauma, we all are subject to emotional and spiritual wounding; we all bear the scars of disappointment, loss or rejection. We all have experienced some event, conversation, relationship or job that hurt or diminished us. We all have had something unpleasant, unwelcome or unwanted thrust upon us that has left us resentful or even vengeful.



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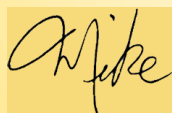
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And if we felt all those little wounds all the time, if our brains didn't push them to the background, we might be overwhelmed or incapacitated. And sometimes something will happen that *does* open the floodgates and we *do* become overwhelmed, especially when we haven't acknowledged or have denied that those wounds exist. But there is value in acknowledging the spiritual and emotional pain that is always there in the background, even if we can't put our finger on the specifics. Just admitting that we have been and are wounded is a place to start; it can be a powerful and healing confession.

Lent is often cast as a season to admit to our sin, and most of our liturgy and theology around Lent take us there. But I wonder if a more urgent existential need is to understand the depth of the injuries we have endured and carry with us. We sin, certainly, but we are also sinned against. And whether we know it or not, whether we admit it or not, we often live out of what was done to us, what lurks in the background. None of us had truly *perfect* childhoods, parents, friends, romantic partners, school experiences or work lives any more than we ate a perfect diet, breathed and drank pristine air and water, or never broke a bone or had stitches.

So perhaps, as we move deeper into Lent and toward Holy Week and Easter, we might at least acknowledge that we live with a shadow that is not of our own doing and that is always with us. And, if possible, surrender that shadow, that layer of mental, emotional and spiritual pain. Give it over to Jesus who is willing – even eager – to take that into himself. Because I don't believe that the promise of resurrection is only for our bodies. Jesus also offers resurrection to our hearts, our minds and our souls.

Grace and Peace,




Lectionary Readings April 2025

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for April.

Sunday, April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4b-14

5th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 126
John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 13

Litany of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Palm/Passion Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

Litany of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11

Psalm 31:9-16
Luke 22:14-23:56 or
Luke 23:1-49

Monday, April 14

Isaiah 42:1-9
Hebrews 9:11-15

Monday of Holy Week

Psalm 36:5-11
John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Tuesday of Holy Week

Psalm 71:1-14
John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Hebrews 12:1-3

Wednesday of Holy Week

Psalm 70
John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 17

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 *Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19*
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
John 18:1-19:42

Good Friday

Psalm 22
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Saturday, April 19

Job 14:1-14 or
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
Matthew 27:57-66

Holy Saturday

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
1 Peter 4:1-8
John 19:38-42

Sunday, April 20

Acts 10:34-43 or
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
John 20:1-18 or

Resurrection of the Lord

Isaiah 65:17-25
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, April 27

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
John 20:19-31

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 118:14-29 or
Revelation 1:4-8



Worship News...



Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 13

9:15 a.m.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17

6:30 p.m. Meal

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

3520 Perry Street, Erie

Good Friday

Friday, April 18

7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir will be singing three songs.

at First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek



Resurrection

of the LORD

Sunday, April 20

9:15 a.m.

The Chancel Choir and Handbells will bless us with musical praise!

at First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

11:00 a.m.

at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

April 2025 Worship Leaders

Liturgists

Greeters

Sun., April 6	Gil Long	Linda Blum
Sun., April 13	Chris Thomas	Nancy McNally
Fri., April 18		Mary Stewart
Sun., April 20	Gil Long	Sue Beighley
Sun., April 27	Scott Shunk	Peggie Smith



Sensory Bible Experience

Come and join us on Sunday, April 6th after church and brunch for a Sensory Bible Experience. Get ready and share some thoughts and reflection together while looking, hearing, and creating.



Looking ahead - Music Celebration Sunday is Sunday, May 18. Lots of music from Chancel and Handbell choirs, the Harmonizers, Jasmine, perhaps others.



Mission, Spiritual Formation and Fellowship...



Caring for Our Neighbors

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 provide each family with a ham, and we being asked to provide the rest of the meal.

There are brown grocery bags with a shopping list attached at the back of the sanctuary. If you are able to help, please take a bag, fill it, then return to the back of the church by Sunday, April 13. Thank you!

Spring STEAK *Swiss* DINNER

Saturday, April 26, 2024

4:30—6:30 p.m.

Adults \$15.00

**Same great meal,
but take out style.**

Drive-Thru—Take-Out Only

Enter thru west entrance

***to the parking lot and you will be directed
where to proceed.***



Membership, Care and Development Committee

The committee hosted a rousing Bingo Bonanza on March 29th. A good time was had by all. Many thanks to all who participated and contributed, especially Mary Ellen and Ron Flowers who provided the bingo game.

The 4th Tuesday luncheon is being replaced by a monthly "fellowship event" as evidenced by the Bingo Bonanza.

April will be a month off due to the busy Easter season events and the Swiss Steak dinner on April 26th. Target events for the summer and fall are a Seawolves game, historical car rally, progressive dinner and another game day like we had last year. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for these coming events. Thanks.

Birthday Sundays will continue on April 13 (Palm Sunday) and May 11 (Mother's Day) and the 2nd Sunday of each month going forward.



Brunch and a Movie continues each Sunday (except for birthday Sundays). Please join us for this great learning and fellowship opportunity.

Wine the Word



Wine and the Word continues on at 6:00 via Zoom and continues every other Sunday evening. We will continue our study of Making Sense of the Cross, a VERY readable and understandable book about the life of our Lord. Please consider joining us via Zoom. All are welcome to jump right in the deep end (which is very shallow!). Please contact Pastor Mike for the Zoom link and book.

All are welcome to attend.

Youth Events and more...



Attention all Youth!!!!

Lots of fun stuff coming up!!! Check out some of below! Contact Jennifer Wedzik for more info.

1. Spring Youth Presbytery retreat for 6th-12th graders will be held April 25-27 at Camp Mission Meadows on Lake Chautauqua. Along with our retreat programming, there are climbing walls, an indoor pool, and a low-ropes course. Need to register.
2. Middle School Youth Retreat at Montreat. Middle School Conference July 15 - 20 at Maryville College - theme- Wonder Full"
3. Youth Triennium this summer!!!! -

Who: Rising 9th -graduating 12th graders. When: July 26-31, 2025 Where: Louisville, KY Theme: "As If We Were Dreaming." Our faith challenges us to dream; to pay attention to the dreams that the Spirit implants in our hearts and minds. See more information on the bulletin board and the back of the sanctuary and take a copy with you.

Pick the event right for you, and bring a friend!



"You have a special way of showing you care, and it means the world to us."



Thank you to our Harborcreek Church family and friends for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, wishes and phone calls when we lost our sister, Bonnie. Each was much appreciated by both of us and our families.

Cindy Skladanowski and Joanne Scott



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 Size 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.

UPDATE ON THE LOUNGE RENOVATION PROJECT

The goal of this project has been to transform a neglected large room in the basement that over the years had become a place for storing all kinds of “stuff”, had suffered some water damage, and certainly was no longer the kind of room that could serve as a lounge. A lounge is intended to be a clean, comfortable, and attractive space that can be used for relaxing, entertaining guests, socializing, and is a pleasant spot where people can meet and interact.

The carpet was old and dirty; water damage to the floor had occurred adjacent to the east wall and floor repairs were therefore necessary, a no longer needed pass thru window into the kitchen needed to be closed off, and a drop ceiling was now needed to safely conceal all the electric cables, wires, and panels that were part of the much needed electrical upgrade. The 4 poles serving as beams and the pegboard over the sliding doors on the south wall were pretty unsightly and needed attention. It also became apparent that the hallway leading into the lounge from the dining room as well as the hallway leading up to the old front entry certainly needed some attention as well. It made sense to address these areas at the same time efforts were underway to renovate the lounge.

Thanks to the financial support of both members and friends of the church, along with the volunteers who contributed their time and talents –THIS PROJECT IS GETTING CLOSE TO COMPLETION!

- The old carpet from lounge and adjacent hallways has been removed .
- The needed floor repairs to address prior water damage have been completed.
- A code compliant enclosure / closet for the two electrical panels has been built.
- The support beams have been transformed into wooden support columns stained to match existing woodwork.
- The unsightly pegboard wall section has been removed and replaced with wallboard / vents.
- The pass thru wall from the kitchen has been removed and the wall finished for paint.
- Electric outlets were added to the support columns and kitchen adjacent wall. Lights and outlets were also added to the interior of new enclosure closet for the 2 electric panels.
- The entire lounge room was repainted. Multiple coats were needed.
- Color contrasting trim moldings separating upper and lower wall sections were added.
- A 9 foot section of new upper and lower cabinets with counter top were installed on lounge room wall adjacent to the kitchen.
- The walls in hallway into lounge as well as walls and ceiling in hallway leading to old front entry have been repaired where needed and the entire area repainted.
- The LAST big item – commercial grade carpet will be installed in the lounge room as well as in the hallways leading into lounge and to old front entry. This is scheduled for April 3rd and 4th.
- Shortly afterwards I will ask a few of the ladies to form a small working committee to focus on the furnishing and decorating of the lounge.

I would like to send a VERY BIG THANKS to several people who helped out greatly with their time and talents. This includes: Dave Beighley, Nancy Way, Jack Mosier, Dave Maille, Gil Long, and Bill Stewart. We also worked very closely with Ken Rodland of Rodland Construction on this project, he offered lots of good suggestions, and I certainly would also like to THANK Ken for his involvement.

DONATIONS TO HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS TO FINISH THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT ARE WELCOMED!

Bob Kellerman

Church Family News...



Prayer List:

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.

Holli Beighley
Barb Bemis
Claudia Brown
John Brown
Margaret Crider
Robin Cuneo
Dave English

Bill Fannin
Donna Fannin
Pat Feddersen
Mary Ellen Flowers
Ron Flowers
Joan Graham
Sue Haynes

Morgan Johnson
David Lyon
Dick May
Mellish Family
Chris Mosier
Family of Yvonne Peters
Wilda Resinger

Rich Smith
Sandy Spangler
Carl Steiner
Marge Suter
Ron Washe
Tina Wasiela
Zanita Zacks-Gabriel



April Birthdays

- 2 Donna Fannin
- 13 Tiffany Kephart
- 14 Sandy Spangler
- 16 Alexander Wilkinson
- 16 Allison Wilkinson
- 16 Marlene Long
- 17 Abigail Wilkinson
- 18 Maria Barker
- 19 Bob DeAngelo
- 22 Noah Stewart
- 24 Sue Kellerman
- 29 Sarah King

April Anniversaries

- 13 Marlene and Gil Long

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
C/O The Palms of Mount Pleasant
937 Bowman Road AL #146
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Jacque Foust
8467 East Lake Rd.
Erie, PA 16511

Dick May
6568 Iroquois Avenue
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Esther Noonan
7554 McGill Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Peggy Nelson
2 Gibson St. Apt. 102
North East, PA 16428

Wilda Resinger
5456 East Lake Road
Barnabas Court South Room 120
Erie, PA 16511

Carl Steiner
c/o Heather Steiner
4847 Tamarlac Lane
Erie, PA 16505

Sandy Spangler
227 W. 22nd Street Room 9
Erie, PA 16509

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



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5
6 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Sensory Bible Experience after Brunch Wine and the Word 6:00 via Zoom	7 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	8	9  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday Sunday following worship Easter Egg Hunt and Activities 11:15 a.m.	14  Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m.  Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	15	16  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	17 Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Worship at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church	18 Good Friday Worship Service 7:00 p.m. at Harborcreek Presbyterian Church	19
20 Resurrection Sunday!  9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship	21 <i>May Newsletter Information due!!</i> Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	22	23  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Spring Swiss Steak Dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m.
27 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship	28 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	29	30  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	Elder of the Month Chris Thomas 814-899-8658 Deacon of the Month Sue Beighley 814-460-1232		



**Harborcreek
First Presbyterian Church**

***Annual
Geranium Sale***

\$5.00 each or 4 for \$18.00

Proceeds benefit the Mission Fund

Order as soon as possible as the flowers are on a first-come-first serve basis.

Order are due by Sunday, May 4. You can place your order by placing it in the marked box at the back of the church or getting it to Lisa Baumgardner by:

Mail: 7005 Garfield Avenue, Harborcreek, PA 16421

Email: lkbaum10405@outlook.com

Text: 814-881-3788

Date for pick-up are: Thursday, May 15 between 11 a.m. -5 p.m.

2025 Geranium Order Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

Number of Each Color: # _____ White # _____ Red
 # _____ Dark Pink # _____ Light Pink

Total Cost _____ Paid _____