



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd.
Harborcreek, PA 16421
Telephone: (814) 899-1031

Email: office@hcpresbyterian.org
Website: hcpresbyterian.org

Live-Stream Worship: [Facebook@firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek)

May Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 4

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



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Harborcreek



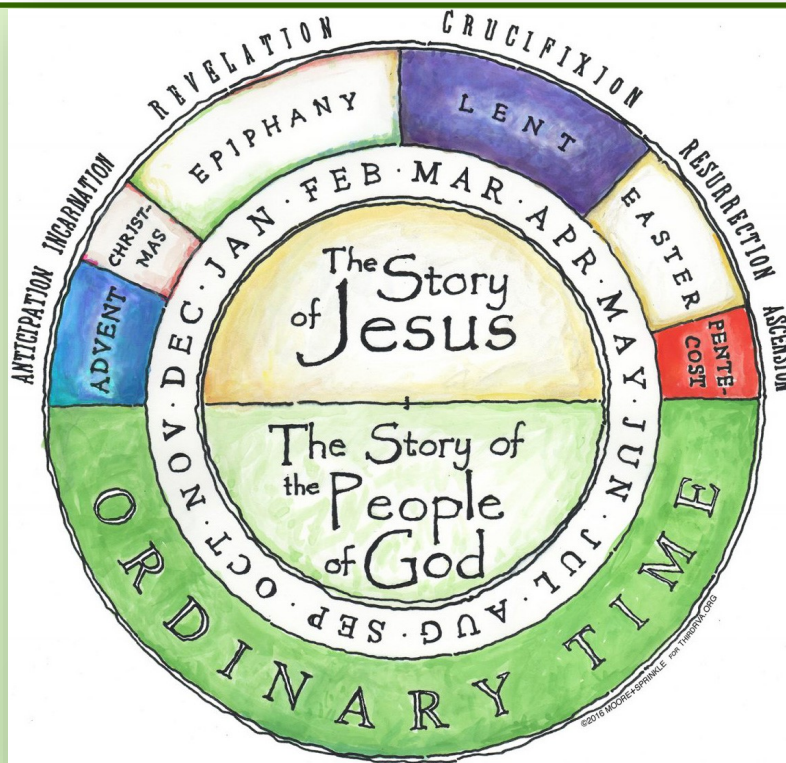
Pastor's Message

Back in December I wrote an article that outlined the movements of a typical worship service and concluded saying that “Next month I’ll continue the worship conversation and talk more about our liturgical cycles and what is and isn’t permitted or acceptable in Presbyterian worship.” You might have noticed that I did not continue in January...or February or March or April. Thank you for not pointing that out to me and let’s just pick up here with an overview of the liturgical year.

And let’s start by noting that there are Christian traditions that don’t follow a calendar of Christian holidays or seasons. They base their stance in the “regulative principle of worship” (RPW), the notion that the church is only to practice in worship what the Bible actually establishes, including various rites and liturgies. In fact one of the stronger arguments for RPW is in the Westminster Confession (1647) found in our PC(USA) Book of Confessions: “But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.” (BoC 6.112) And Calvin himself wrote, “God disapproves of all modes of worship not expressly sanctioned by his Word.”

Westminster lists prayer, the reading and preaching of Scripture, singing psalms and the administration of the sacraments as “parts of the ordinary religious worship of God” with the occasional addition of religious oaths and vows, solemn fastings, and thanksgivings.

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Fortunately, we are not bound by Westminster or Calvin, despite the high value we place on both. Still, as we'll see in later essays, our worship is rooted in Scripture. But where the regulative principle of worship looks for explicitly prescribed actions, our worship often takes its cues from narrative and story, from the many ways God is characterized and the variety of language—including poetry and metaphor—used to describe God. We look at the ways people celebrated and served in both the Old and New Testaments. It's fair to say that we look for *descriptions* rather than *prescriptions*.

So, let's come back to the liturgical year, which begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which is the one that falls four weeks before Christmas. It's also the Sunday after Thanksgiving, a handy but not intentional connection. The liturgical color for Advent – and every liturgical season has its own color – is either purple or blue. Most churches change the paraments that hang from the pulpit and lectern and sometimes cover the communion table according to the liturgical season. Advent concludes on Christmas Eve and sometimes, when the last Sunday of Advent is December 24, we have two distinct services on the same day with purple or blue paraments in the morning and white in the evening.

The Christmas season, with its white paraments, extends from the Christmas Eve through Epiphany, the twelfth day following Christmas Day or January 6. But most churches celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday closest to January 6. After Epiphany (and with the exception of a day of white on Baptism of the Lord Sunday) the traditional liturgical calendar shifts to a stretch of Ordinary Time (more on that later) and green for the weeks before Ash Wednesday. But more recently many churches and traditions have claimed the Sundays after Epiphany as, well, Sundays After Epiphany and have left white as the liturgical color. I quite like this and try to follow it for reasons I'll explain later.

Epiphany (or Ordinary Time) leads us to the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a so-called moveable feast because its date is based on Easter, which, as I'm sure you've noted sometimes comes "early" or "late." Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter although we often refer to the 40 days of Lent. That's because we don't count Sundays as part of the 40. Sundays are always celebrations of resurrection – little Easters – no matter the liturgical season. While Lent begins with Ash Wednesday it concludes with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and, in some traditions, Holy Saturday.

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Those three days together even have a name: Triduum (“tri-doo-um”). Many churches have vigils or even worship services that run past midnight on Holy Saturday. The color for most of Lent is purple but especially on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the color can be black or, in a fully stripped sanctuary, no adornment at all.

Easter happens on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox – sometime between March 22 and April 25. The next really early Easter will be March 28, 2027 and the next late will be April 21, 2030. The color for Easter is, of course, white and the Easter season extends for seven weeks plus one day – 50 days – until Pentecost (literally “fiftieth”) celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church. Its color is red and in many churches it’s the only red day on the liturgical calendar. But more and more churches are leaving the red up longer. And our official Presbyterian Planning Calendar even designates the Sundays after Pentecost as Sundays After Pentecost rather than Sundays in Ordinary Time. I personally like to leave the red up for at least a few weeks until we sort of naturally transition into a summer rhythm.

When we do put the green up, we are officially in Ordinary Time – those weeks and months that not marked by specific festivals or seasons. But “ordinary” here does not mean not special or normal. Rather, it relates to order in a series – first, second, third, etc. Ordinary time is counted or ordered time. And in fact, ordinary time is often the best time to try new things and change up our “normal” patterns; it can be extraordinary. The season’s green liturgical color is a great symbol for the growth and renewal that can happen when we aren’t focused on the next big celebration.

Ordinary Time or the Sundays After Pentecost culminate on Christ the King Sunday, the Sunday before Advent 1. And, depending on Easter, about half the year is spent in that season. I kind of like the tidiness of that. The illustration I’ve included lays that out nicely with half the year focused on the story of Jesus and half the year on the story of the people of God.

Next month (probably) I’ll be writing about how our denominational Directory for Worship offers us guidance and encouragement on the content and execution of worship. We’ll look at what is permitted (quite a lot) and what is not (very little). For now, as we anticipate Pentecost and breath in the Holy Spirit, perhaps you can wonder about how our upcoming season of green might be extraordinary!

Grace and peace,



Everything Has Its Time

Everything on earth has its own time
and its own season.

There is a time for birth and death,
planting and reaping, for killing and healing,
destroying and building,
for crying and laughing,
weeping and dancing, for throwing stones
and gathering stones, embracing and parting.
There is a time for finding and losing,
keeping and giving, for tearing and sewing,
listening and speaking.

There is also a time for love and hate,
for war and peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Lectionary Readings—May 2025

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

Sunday, May 4, 2025	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Sunday, May 11, 2025	4 th Sunday of Easter
<i>Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)</i>	<i>Psalm 30</i>	<i>Acts 9:36-43</i>	<i>Psalm 23</i>
<i>Revelation 5:11-14</i>	<i>John 10:22-30</i>	<i>Revelation 7:9-17</i>	<i>John 21:1-19</i>
Sunday, May 18, 2025	5 th Sunday of Easter	Sunday, May 25, 2025	6 th Sunday of Easter
<i>Acts 11:1-18</i>	<i>Psalm 148</i>	<i>Acts 16:9-15</i>	<i>Psalm 67</i>
<i>Revelation 21:1-6</i>	<i>John 13:31-35</i>	<i>Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5</i>	<i>John 14:23-29 or</i> <i>John 5:1-9</i>

Worship and Membership News



*Music
Celebration
Sunday*
Sunday, May 18
9:15 a.m.

God has really blessed us throughout the year with music from some very talented people. It is time to celebrate these gifts on Sunday, May 18.

We will enjoy lots of music from Chancel and Handbell choirs, the Harmonizers, and others.

Join us for this celebration of music!

And there is more...

Music Munchie Fellowship

In honor of our fabulous music department (chancel choir, bell choir, instrumentalist, AV technician) we will have a Music Munchie Fellowship time after church on May 18th.



Psalm 92 1-4

A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day.

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name,
O Most High,
to declare your steadfast love
in the morning
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O LORD,
have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands
I sing for joy.*

May 2025 Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., May 4	Bob Kellerman	Sue Kellerman
Sun., May 11	Brian Griffith	Izy and Jim Lyon
Sun., May 18	Kyle Foust	Peggie Smith
Sun., May 25	Don Duckett	Sue Resinger

Membership, Care and Development Committee

In honor of our fabulous music department (chancel choir, bell choir, instrumentalist, AV technician) we will have a Music Munchie Fellowship time after church on May 18th.

All you members who love to bake appetizers or desserts please plan to bring your special treat that day to share with the congregation. We will be able to keep warm items warm during the church service! Look for a sign up sheet in the back of the church so we know what is coming. Thank you!!

There will be no brunch and a movie that day (last movie is May 4th, birthday Sunday/Mother's Day May 11).



The May fellowship event will be Saturday, May 17th and is a May Meandering Road Rally.

Starting with a simple lunch at 12:30 where we will discuss the Rally details and hand out the directions. Groups will head out in 4 directions for approximately a 25-30 minute rally before returning to church for the final tally. We anticipate being done around 2:30.

Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church or contact the church office prior to Wednesday, May 14th.

June fellowship will be a church member tureen luncheon on Pentecost Sunday June 8th.

Watch for details in the bulletin and announcements in church. All are welcome!

Up coming event. . .



May Meandering Road Rally

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Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church or contact the church office prior to Wednesday, May 14th.



**Swiss Steak
Dinner
Thank you!**

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way to make our latest Swiss Steak Dinner a smooth running success.

While our number of meals sold was down somewhat, we provided 19 meals to elderly clients of the Harborcreek Food Pantry, froze some steak for a future membership event and provided a meal for the Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Profits will go towards our Presbytery Mission Pledge.

I was grateful for the support and cooperation of our congregation for this biennial event. We are blessed.

Dave Maille, Chair



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.

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
Wilda Resinger

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



May Birthdays

- 4 Madeline Schrimper
- 6 Annie Stewart
- 9 James Thomas
- 13 Sue Beighley
- 16 Jared Mosier
- 25 Amanda Masiello
- 26 Betsy Roseto
- 31 Marge Suter

May Anniversaries

- 10 Bill & Tammy Stewart
- 22 Patty & Kevin Graff
- 23 Barry & Jane Wile
- 31 Brian & Barb Griffith

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



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Elder of the Month Sue Kellerman 717-586-8357 Deacon of the Month Sue Resinger 814-323-0716		 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	1	2	3
4 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Last Brunch and a Movie Before Summer Break	5 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	6	7  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	8	9	10
11 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday— Mother's Day Sunday following worship	12  Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m.  Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	13	14 Preschool Graduation Practice A.M/P.M. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	15 Geranium Pick-up 11 a.m.-5 p.m.	16  Preschool Graduation in Sanctuary 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.	17  Meandering Road Rally 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Rally to follow
18 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship  Music Munchie Fellowship following worship	19 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	20	21	Pastor Mike is out-of-town for a funeral until Monday the 19th		
25 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	26 Church Office Closed for Memorial Day Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	27	28	29	30	31

Mothers in the Bible

Bathsheba Elizabeth Eunice Eve Hagar Hannah Jochebed
 Leah Lois Mary Mother of Jesus Naomi Rachel Rebekah
 Salome Sarah Tamar

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

Extra Credit: Can you name the children of these biblical mothers?

Bathsheba _____ Elizabeth _____ Eunice _____

Eve _____, _____ Hagar _____

Jochebed _____, _____, _____

Leah _____ Lois _____ Mary, Mother of Jesus _____

Naomi _____ Rachel _____, _____

Rebekah _____, _____ Salome _____, _____

Sarah _____ Tamar _____, _____

(answers will appear in next newsletter)