



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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

August Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 6

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



Mary Louise and I thoroughly enjoyed our 25 th wedding anniversary getaway. We went to Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario for a couple of plays at the Shaw Festival and some great meals along with a wonderful day trip to Niagara Falls where we did the Voyage to the Falls boat trip (red poncho), the Journey Behind the Falls (yellow poncho) and the Niagara Parks Power Station (blue poncho). The weather cooperated; every day was sunny. And the thousands of people we encountered, whether it was taking in the spectacular beauty of the Falls or strolling through NOTL, were similarly cooperative and sunny.

Mary Louise and I are big fans of both places and have been to each several times. We know where the best places are at the Falls to take a picture and get your picture taken (for free). And on both the upper walkways and wet lookouts down close to the bottom, people were courteous and helpful, getting their looks and photos then moving away and often offering to take your picture if you take theirs. And even though it was very, very crowded, the lines moved quickly.

Aside from the occasional small-child meltdown people were considerate and polite. We were once again struck by the diversity of our fellow tourists. We mingled with people from all over the world and we heard many different languages being spoken. What united us was our awe; Niagara Falls is, well, awesome, and at least for Mary Louise and me, it never gets old.



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At the Shaw Festival we saw two plays. The first was *Wait Until Dark* – a thriller that starred a sighted woman playing a blind character. The actor spent months preparing for the role working with a blind coach so that her performance would be as authentic as possible. The second was the Cole Porter musical *Anything Goes* which was quite possibly the best musical production I've ever seen anywhere. The title number, which closes act 1, was a jaw-dropping display of singing and dancing the likes of which I've never witnessed.

Now I understand that it takes a certain amount of privilege to experience what Mary Louise and I enjoyed and yes, we balked at paying \$12 (Canadian) for two scoops of ice cream. But still, how wonderful it was to revel in such natural beauty and the incredible talents of brilliant actors, dancers and musicians, and to do so with people from so many different places. Then I broke our reverie by looking at my news feed on Tuesday and the realities of our national and global calamities and dysfunctions came crashing back in.

How is it that we are using the word "famine" to describe an actual condition in our world when we have both the food and delivery systems to easily stave it off? Why will fewer rather than more people soon have access to healthcare? What evil impulses are still provoking wars of aggression and conquest? When did diversity and inclusion become bad things? Who will we become if we insist that everyone conform to narrow binaries of identity and expression? At what point did we become numb to the divisive rhetoric, mocking tone and callous disregard that marks so much of our social and political discourse? I could go on, but I'm sure you get my point.

Anything Goes opened in 1934 and the song "Anything Goes" has the lyrics "*The world has gone mad today./ And good's bad today./ And day's night today./ And black's white today.*" In the program for the production we saw, director and choreographer Kimberly Rampersad comments on those lines, writing, "The self-awareness of these lyrics liberated our production of *Anything Goes*. Today we offer our performance as RESPONSE to and in RESISTENCE to the darkness in this world... We offer this production as balm for your soul."

The world is a dark place, to be sure. But perhaps we might also recognize that it is full of people who want nothing more than to stand in awe before natural wonders and take your picture if you take theirs. People who find real meaning and joy in the art and frivolity of singing, dancing and pretending to be someone else for our entertainment and enlightenment. People who have dedicated their lives to something as seemingly pointless as playing the trombone. People who take seriously the churning of ice cream. Perhaps we might remember that despite the dark souls of people in power and the destruction they cause, there are still people who meticulously and carefully tend delightful gardens for all to enjoy. These people and every person who creates and builds, heals and serves, teaches and protects – every person who dazzles us with simple goodness and decency and humanity – these are the people we should respect and follow and celebrate.

And as we move into the second act of our Erie summer, we might open our eyes to the local wonders of Presque Isle and our 3rd Best Sunsets in the World. We might find joy in our Seawolves – grown men playing a boy's game like it was the most important thing in the world. Maybe we might pause in our complaints about the Bayfront and be grateful for engineers and backhoe operators who might just know what they are doing.

And, if you dare, take the time to sing a little song and dance a little dance.

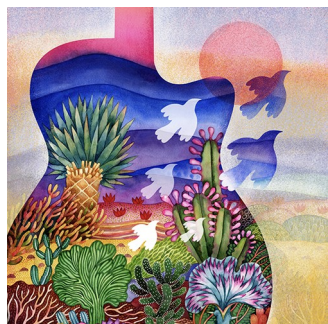
Grace and peace,



*The world has gone mad today
And good's bad today
And black's white today
And day's night today
Anything goes...
Cole Porter*



Worship News



Summer Worship Music 2025

- Aug. 3: Peg Poniatowski, flute
 Aug. 10: Bill Nesgoda, Brian Griffith,
 David Maille, & Christine
 Thomas, vocal group
 Aug. 17: Misery Bay Dulcimers,
 instrumental group
 Aug. 24: Peg Poniatowski, flute
 Aug. 31: Derf Hopsecger, vocal/piano
 Sept. 7: Andona Zaks-Jordan, violin

August 2025 Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., Aug. 3	Forest Mosier	Bob & Sue Kellerman
Sun., Aug. 10	Brian Griffith	Jim & Mary Stewart
Sun., Aug. 17	Gil Long	Cindy Skladanowski
Sun., Aug. 24	Eileen Kriner	Nancy Way
Sun., Aug. 31	Marlene Long	Peggie Smith

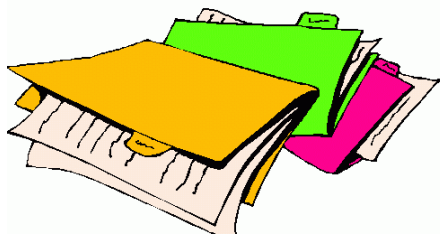


Lectionary Readings—August 2025

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

<u>Sunday, August 3, 2025</u>	18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hosea 11:1-11	Psalms 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
<u>Sunday, August 10, 2025</u>	19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
<u>Sunday, August 17, 2025</u>	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
<u>Sunday, August 24, 2025</u>	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
<u>Sunday, August 31, 2025</u>	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalms 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

Mission Opportunity



The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is once again collecting school supplies for our students. There are bags in the back of the sanctuary with shopping lists attached—some for elementary student and some for high school. If you are able to help, please return the by Sunday, August 17.

Thank you for your support.

Worship

"and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." - John 4:24



Up-Coming Study and Events...



COFFEE, TEA & GOD

*Exploring the Word of God
Through the Psalms of Ascent
Psalms 120 to 134*

We are exploring a new journey of faith. First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek will be hosting a community Bible study with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Erie.

Beginning Wednesday, September 10, 2025
and every other week for 6 sessions.

We will gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee tea & Krimpets,
with study from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek, PA

Registration is required. Workbooks are \$13.00

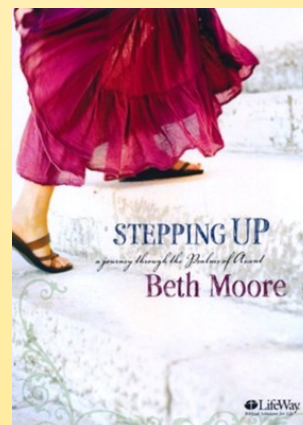
Last date for registration is Friday, August 15, 2025.

Please Email: Marlene Long at Pinkribbongal@comcast.net

COME JOIN US!!

A peek at what to expect:

Wed. Sept. 10	Session 1	Where Will My Hope Come From
Wed. Sept. 24	Session 2	Our Eyes Look to the Lord
Wed. Oct. 8	Session 3	Great Things for Us
Wed. Oct. 22	Session 4	A Fruitful Vine
Wed. Nov. 5	Session 5	My Hope Is in the Lord
Wed. Nov. 19	Session 6	Blessings from Zion



Vacation Bible School

*Saturday, August 16th at
Whitford Park*

Three ways to help with Vacation Bible School:

- 1) Volunteer at event (sign up in back)
- 2) Donate small Pet toys, leashes, or treats for Anna Shelter for VBS kids Service Learning project. Box in back - place in box before Monday the August 11th
- 3) Grab a couple of flyers from back and hand out to kids/families that might be interested!



This and That...

**Take me out to the
ball game...**

**Erie Moon Mammoths
Seawolves**

**Sunday, August 10th 1:35 p.m.
Start of Game**

Erie Moon Mammoths Seawolves
afternoon game, Sunday, August
10th. Ticket orders will be due by July
27th. If we have enough people signing up,
we will be able to get
group rate of \$15.00
per person.
To Sign up see Brian
Griffith.



Do you have stuff you would like removed from your home? **Cobb's Thrift Shop**, 1215 Parade Street, 814-455-4068, (who has handled our Garage Sale leftovers for years) can still do that and **our church would receive a portion of the proceeds**. Items can be dropped off at the store or be picked up (\$40 fee that comes out of the proceeds). Our consignment number is 4541FP and needs to be on any large item, box, tote to be counted. We may possibly resume the big garage sale event in the future, but the meantime, you can help the church out this way. For more information please speak to Dave Maille.

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

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



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...



DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO
Prayer.
COLOSSIANS 4:2

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.

Barb Bemis
Claudia Brown
John Brown
Margaret Crider
Robin Cuneo
Linda De Angelo
Dave English

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

David Lyon
Dick May
Mellish Family
Chris Mosier
Peg Nelson
Ann Nesgoda
Esther Noonan

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



August Birthdays

- 4 Brian Griffith
- 5 Jim Erickson
- 6 Patty Graff
- 9 Tracy Wilkinson
- 10 Dave Beighley
- 11 Rod Hedlund
- 11 Bob Kellerman
- 12 Kyle Foust
- 17 Sue Bemis
- 19 Nancy McNally
- 23 Scott Shunk
- 23 Jessica (Erickson) Wolfrom
- 24 Kevin Graff
- 25 Peggie Smith
- 28 Jack Mosier
- 28 Dennis Blum

August Anniversaries

- 1 John & Amy Erickson
- 6 John & Nancy Brown
- 11 Dave & Andrea Maille
- 22 Jim & Barb Bemis
- 23 Larry & Sue 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

Jacque Foust
8467 East Lake Rd.
Erie, PA 16511

Esther Noonan
7554 McGill Road
Harborcreek, PA

Sandy Spangler
227 W. 22nd Street Room
9

Ron Washe
Brevillier Village
Barnabas North Room 409
5416 E Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511

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

Dick May
6568 Iroquois Avenue
Harborcreek, PA 16421

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

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





Erie Gives Day

Tuesday, August 12, 2025!

Erie Gives day is on Tuesday, August 12th - where the community comes together to support our local non-profits through the Erie Community Foundation and the generous sponsors that provide some matching funds. You can easily be a philanthropist to any number of charities – including the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Harborcreek for just \$25 or more. (Last year many of our members either caught up or paid ahead to maximize our matching funds allocation.) While it is easy to use a credit card on the 12th, your favorite non-profits will benefit more if you fill out the special form and mail in a check. (The 3.2% credit card fee comes out of your donation as the Foundation does not absorb that cost).

Hopefully you will be able to support US and other worthy non-profits. Just remember to make sure your check and form reach the Foundation by Monday, August, 5th. There is no need to wait. Be a blessing now!

Ways to give

Online:

- Visit **ErieGives.org**. Gifts will be accepted on **August 12, 2025**, beginning at midnight! Online donations can be made via credit card (American Express, Discover, Mastercard, or Visa) ***Please note: You will only be able to donate to 10 nonprofits at a time if you are giving online. If you are giving to more than 10, you will need to complete multiple transactions.*** Minimum donation = \$25

By Phone:

- Call The Erie Community Foundation at **814.454.0843**. Our friendly staff will answer our phone lines from **8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 12, 2025**. Donations can be made by phone using your credit card (American Express, Discover, Mastercard, or Visa) Minimum donation = \$25.

In Person:

- Please bring your check and the completed Check Donation Form to The Erie Community Foundation at **459 West 6th Street**, before **Tuesday, August 5, 2025**. Make sure to write a single check for the total amount payable to **“The Erie Community Foundation”**, and the Foundation will distribute your gift to your favorite nonprofits.

By Mail:

- You can also mail your check to **459 West 6th Street**, but we will need to receive your gift by **Tuesday, August 5, 2025**. Complete the Check Donation Form indicating the nonprofits you want to support and the corresponding donation amounts. Write a single check for the total amount payable to **“The Erie Community Foundation”**, and the Foundation will distribute your gift to your favorite nonprofits. Mail your check and the completed Check Donation Form to The Erie Community Foundation, **459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507**.

The Check Donation Forms can be pick up at the back of the sanctuary. For your convenience a form is attached to this newsletter. You may also go to:

<https://www.eriegives.org/info/ways-to-give>

ERIE GIVES CHECK CONTRIBUTION FORM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFITS ON ERIE GIVES!
A **\$25 MINIMUM DONATION PER ORGANIZATION** IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR CHECKS, STOCK GIFTS, OR IRA DISTRIBUTIONS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO 459 WEST 6TH STREET, ERIE, PA 16507 BY **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025**.



First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ State (Abbreviated): _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

To ensure a quick and accurate process, please clearly provide your email address — you will receive an emailed receipt for your donation.

Check Number: _____ Contribution Total \$: 0

Please list how you wish to be identified: _____

Example: Jayne & John Doe | John Doe | Anonymous

Erie Gives Nonprofit(s) Name(s) from ErieGives.org	Gift Amount
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
TOTAL	0

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: ___ Mail ___ In-person ___ Verified ___ Entered ___ Stock ___ IRA ___

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Start your day with a joyful thought... Each day write in a Daily Joy Giving thanks to God!		Elder of the Month Scott Shunk 814-4533803 Deacon of the Month Linda DeAngelo 814-746-7372			1 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	2 <i>Daily Joy</i>
3 <i>Daily Joy</i> 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	4 <i>Daily Joy</i> Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	5 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	6 <i>Daily Joy</i> 6:30 p.m.	7 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	8 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	9 <i>Daily Joy</i> Emmanuel Waldameer Picnic 1:00 p.m.
10 <i>Daily Joy</i> 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday Sunday following worship SeaWolves Game 1:35 Start of Game	11 <i>Daily Joy</i> Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	12 <i>Daily Joy</i> <i>Erie Gives!!</i> 	13 <i>Daily Joy</i> Session Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	15 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	16 <i>Daily Joy</i>
17 <i>Daily Joy</i> 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	18 <i>Daily Joy</i> Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	19 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	20 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	21 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	22 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	23 <i>Daily Joy</i>
24 <i>Daily Joy</i> 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	25 <i>Daily Joy</i> Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	26 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	27 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	28 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	29 <i>Daily Joy</i> 	30 <i>Daily Joy</i>
						31 <i>Daily Joy</i>