



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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April Newsletter Volume 2026, Issue 4

Church Leadership

Pastor.....Rev. Mike Wilson
Audio-Visual.....Jared Mosier
Custodian & Librarian.....Eileen Kriner
Music Director.....Chris Thomas
Organist.....Joyce Kriner
Secretary.....Mary Stewart

Committees—2026

Clerk of Session.....Gil Long
Membership Care &
Development.....Tiffany Kephart
and Chris Thomas
Mission/Outreach.....Sue Kellerman
Nominating & Training.....Brian Griffith
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman
Property.....Dave Maille
Spiritual Formation.....Marlene Long
Stewardship & Finance.....Kevin Graff
and Dave Maille
Worship.....Scott Shunk
Recording Secretary.....Cindy Skladanowski
Treasurer.....Mary Stewart
Assistant Treasurer.....Gil Long

Deacons—2026

Chairperson.....Nancy Way
Vice-Chair.....Sue Beighley
Secretary.....Linda DeAngelo
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith
Flower Coordinator.....Sally Wakeley
Funeral Dinners.....Sue Beighley
Greeters/Liturgists.....Deacon of the Month
Nominating Committee.....Sue Resinger
Prayer Chain.....Sue Resinger



First Presbyterian Church of
Harborcreek



Pastor's Message

In one of his extraordinary prayers, the preeminent Old Testament scholar and theologian Walter Brueggemann asks God to “*Easter us in joy and strength.*” I must admit that as much as I like the language of that prayer, I’m not certain that I’m ready to be *Eastered* by God, or anyone else for that matter. It sounds like a painful process to me. How exactly does one get *Eastered* anyway?

One thing’s for sure: we don’t get *Eastered* by saccharine celebrations of an Easter joy that fail to take seriously the ache of loss that the world longs to have soothed. Another OT scholar, Kathleen O’Connor, rightly affirms, “Easter joy is the gift of life in the teeth of death.” Unfortunately, the church that gathers on Easter Sunday too often ignores that reality. We enter the sanctuary shouting our alleluias, better-dressed than usual and hoping to put on a good show for those folks we haven’t seen since Christmas Eve or the previous Easter. There’s not a lot of room left in our Easter liturgy for those who are still experiencing the sting of death that we will announce has been destroyed. In fact, the sting of death, Jesus’s anyway, is often not even experienced by many Easter Sunday worshipers who jump from Palm Sunday’s “hosannas” straight to “he is risen!”

In response, many churches observe Palm/Passion Sunday in which the story of Jesus’s arrest, execution and burial is told on the same Sunday we wave palm branches. And that can be an effective experience and bridge. But it isn’t a fully satisfying substitute for following the ancient liturgical rhythm of Holy Week that begins on Palm Sunday and includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (and in some traditions the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday).

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Our communities will have full services on Maundy Thursday (Harborcreek) and Good Friday (Emmanuel). On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus's last gathering and meal with his disciples and the service will include the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the ritual of foot washing. On Good Friday we will experience Jesus's arrest, execution and burial with a readers' theater presentation of Matthew's passion narrative. I think if you give yourselves over to these services, you will be more fully prepared to be "*Eastered*" on Resurrection of the Lord Sunday.

More is possible, though, by attending the Thursday and Friday services. Or perhaps something important is missed by avoiding them. Because when we give ourselves over to Jesus's suffering and death it enables us to more realistically and effectively confront the suffering in our own lives and in the world around us. Too often the church – that is, the gathered community – asks us to check our sorrows at the door. I have encountered more than a few people who felt that they couldn't come to church, and not just on Easter, because they would break down in tears and didn't want to make anyone uncomfortable. But shouldn't church be exactly the place to bring our sorrows, our heartache, and let them be known? Where else in our culture can we do that? Where else can we turn to find solace? What other community is predicated on the notion that the very heart of creation, God, Godself, knows the depths of pain?

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we enter into the story of Jesus's last days and hours; his anxiety, heartache and sorrow, his abandonment by his closest friends, his physical and emotional torture. We are invited to feel the sting of death experienced by those women who followed Jesus and stayed close by as he died and as his body was prepared for burial and entombed. Only by making that journey can we arrive on Easter Sunday and really be *Eastered*.

And only by engaging the brokenness and broken heartedness of each other can we truly be an *Eastering* community, a community that receives, honors and embraces each other's heartache, loss and grief. And a community that can participate in healing and resurrection – *Eastering* – for each other and our world.

Grace and peace,

Spring STEAK Swiss DINNER

**Saturday, April 18
4:30-6:30 p.m.**

\$15.00 per meal

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

***Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed
Potatoes and Gravy, Green
Beans, Cole Slaw, Applesauce,
Bread, Cookies.***

**Drive Thru Take Out Only
Enter thru west entrance
to the parking lot
and you will be directed
where to proceed.**



***Swiss Steak
Dinner***

Our Spring Swiss Steak Dinner is one of our biggest fundraisers, which we do twice a year. For it to be a success we need your help with the donation of supplies/food and volunteers on the day of the dinner. Sign-up sheets are in the church office. Please help make this dinner the best ever!

Worship News...

Holy Week Schedule



Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

Worship at 11:00 a.m.

"Hear the Children Sing
'Hosanna'"

Jasmine Mosier, Soloist



Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion
and Foot Washing
at Harborcreek
Presbyterian Church



Friday, April 3

Good Friday Service

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday will center on a readers' theater presentation of the passion narrative from Matthew's gospel. We will extinguish candles as the narrative progresses.

at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
3520 Perry St., Erie



Sunday, April 5

Resurrection Sunday

Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.
with Belle Valley and
Elmwood Ave. Churches
is at the pavilion at
Wintergreen Gorge
Cemetery



Worship at 9:15 a.m. at Emmanuel

Worship at 11:00 a.m. at Harborcreek
Holy Communion and Special music by the
Chancel and Handbell Choirs.

April 2026 Worship Leaders

Liturgists

Greeters

Sun., April 5	Brian Griffith	Dave & Sue Beighley
Sun., April 12	Tiffany Kephart	Jim & Izzy Lyon
Sun., April 19	Nancy Way	
Sun., April 26		

April 2026



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

Sunday, Mar. 29

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Sunday, April 5

Resurrection of the LORD

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 28:1-10 or John 1-18

Sunday, April 12

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Psalm 16 or

Exodus 15:1-11 and Psalm 111

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 or

Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 34:1-10

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 26

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 and Psalm 23 or

Ezekiel 34:7-15 and Psalm 100

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

The Harmonizers

The Harmonizers will be
inspiring us with special
music in worship on
Sunday, April 26.





Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is providing lunch on March 29th for the folks at the Upper Room. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for helpers to serve and donate a few food items. The Committee will provide pizza for approximately 50 guests. Any questions on how to help on the 29th, reach out to Sue Beighley or Sue Kellerman *known as the “duo Sues”.

We volunteer four times a year on the fifth Sunday of the month to serve a meal at the Upper Room—our next scheduled date is May 31st. Our members have supported this much needed mission for nearly 15 years. Thank you to each and everyone of you!

As was announced during Sunday service recently, we are no longer receiving greeting cards for St. Jude’s Ranch. The project was dropped by St. Jude’s for various reasons. If anyone knows of an organization who is working with recycled greeting cards, notify Sue Kellerman.

NOTE: We are still collecting cancelled stamps, aluminum cans, and eye glasses in addition to personal care samples for the Upper Room.

We also continue to support and supply much needed food and personal care items for our Blessing Cabinet. The donations to the cabinet support our needy folks in the Harborcreek area. Thanks to everyone who has generously supported this project.

Blessings and a heartfelt thank you for your support.

The Mission Committee

During the Lenten season, we have been learning about the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Our children and youth received a **Noisy Offering** on each Sunday of Lent. This was an opportunity to share our individual loose-coin overflow. To date the children and youth filled their pails with your pocket change receiving **181.72 to date!** Those coins add up quickly! This coming Sunday, March 29 is final our Noisy Offering.



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

Through the **Lenten Sharing Calendars**, we examined the needs around the world and acknowledge the blessings we enjoy. By filling our **Fish Banks**, we can share those blessings with others.

Please join us as we support our Lenten mission through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. For those who prefer, OGHS offering envelopes are available in the pews and at the back of the sanctuary on the table. **We will be receiving the OGHS Offering and the Fish Banks on Easter Sunday.**



One Great Hour of Sharing History

Immediately following World War II, U.S. Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal for support of the separate campaigns of their churches. Their joint statement in support of this effort remains remarkably contemporary.

A program called One Great Hour was broadcast on the evening of Saturday, March 26, 1949, over major networks and many independent stations. The script was written under the direction of playwright Robert Sherwood. The cast included some of the foremost dramatic and musical talents of the time, such as Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino; President Harry Truman brought greetings. The broadcast closed with a request that listeners attend their local church the following morning and make a sacrificial contribution. No exact measure of receipts was possible, but it was estimated that more than 75,000 churches participated. The next year, the offering was repeated, using the name “One Great Hour of Sharing” for the first time.

From the beginning, this has been an ecumenical effort. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada.

PW SPRING gathering

The PW Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 25th 2026, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church from 10-1:30 (registration from 9:00-10 am with a continental breakfast provided by Harborcreek & Emmanuel Church Women).

The Theme is "The Fabric of the Church". Let's piece together a strong community of believers!

CHAPLAIN (Major) Mel Baars O'Malley, currently stationed at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, MD will be the keynote speaker. She will present :

Compassion and Connection: Illuminating God's Presence through Spiritual Care.

In addition, women from Eastminster will highlight six biblical women who have a connection to fabric or craftsmanship. We will explore how we each can relate to these biblical characters. Each participant will receive a quilt block to sign and place it in a receptacle associated with the character they most identify with. It will be a faith filled opportunity to connect with women and learn about the "Fabric of our Church".

To support local mission work -Eastminster is asking us to bring canned or nonperishable food to support the Wesleyville Interfaith Food Pantry. This pantry serves needy people in Eastminster's area.

To register please register at First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek on bulletin board or call the church office at 814-899-1031.

Email: office@hcpresbyterian.org.

Or call the Eastminster's church office at : 814-455-7819.

If you have any questions, please contact PWLEP Moderator Karen Haas karenhaas79@gmail.com. Or call/text 814-397-1619.

Registration deadline is April 13th.

Wine and the Word

Sundays, March 8 and 22

6:00 p.m. on Zoom

Our winter W&W sessions will continue on Zoom—the next study will be Sunday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. We try to meet every other week but sometimes we need to adjust the schedule.

Pastor Mike will moderate the sessions and will send outstudy article and Zoom link. If you would like to participate. Please message him at: pastormike@hcpresbyterian.org.



Breakfast and a Movie



Breakfast and a Movie continues every Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend this opportunity for fun and fellowship beginning at 9:15 each Sunday. Hope to see you there!



Birthday Sunday

April 12, 2026

***Join us after worship
as we celebrate the
birthdays of those born in March and April.***

Annual Geranium Sale



Spring is upon us and so is our Geranium Sale. You have the choice of white, red, dark pink and light pink. The cost is \$5.00 each or 4 for \$18.00. Orders are due by May 3. See the attached order for additional information.

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.

Barb Bemis
Claudia Brown
John Brown
Margaret Crider
Robin Cuneo
Linda De Angelo
Pat Feddersen

Ed Ferriss
Mary Ellen Flowers
Ron Flowers
Jack & Joan Graham
Sue Haynes
Morgan Johnson
Joyce Kriner

Bridget & Jeff Laughlan
David Lyon
Family of Dick May
Mellish Family
Ann Nesgoda
Esther Noonan
Nancy Shaffer

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

Jacque Foust
8467 East Lake Rd.
Erie, PA 16511

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

Esther Noonan
7554 McGill Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421

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

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

Church Office Hours

Pastor Mike is usually in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays around 9:30 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 need to be changed; please call the church office to verify.

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



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday (except Easter Sunday) Breakfast and a Movie at 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m.			1 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. at Harborcreek	3 Good Friday 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel	4
5 Resurrection of the Lord! Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. pavilion at Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	6 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	7	8 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Birthday Sunday following worship Wine & the Word 6:00 p.m. on Zoom	13 Deacon's Meeting 1:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	14	15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18 Spring Swiss Steak Dinner 4:30—6:30 p.m.
19 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	20 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	21	22 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	27	28	29 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	30	Elder of the Month Tiffany Kephart 814-490-1746 Deacon of the Month Sally Wakeley 814-397-4601	



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 3. 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: lkaybaum10405@outlook.com

Text: 814-881-3788

Date for pick-up are: Thursday, May 14 between 11-5 p.m.

2026 Geranium Order Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

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

Total Cost _____ Paid _____

(make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church)



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.

We are no longer collecting used greeting cards. The project at St. Jude's Ranch is no longer using them.

♥**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.

♥**Travel Size Personal Care Products** to be given to the homeless at The Upper Room. Toothbrushes and toothpaste, hand cream and sanitizer, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner, washcloths and hand towels, pocket packets of tissues, combs and brushes, etc. All items must be new and in original packing.

♥**Aluminum Cans** are still being recycled. Proceeds with benefit our outreach programs through the Dick Smith Fund. Some of these funds benefit our Caring Cabinet by purchasing food and non-perishables. Please bag your cans and place them in the receptacle behind the church near the trash container.