



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)

October Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 8

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

One of my high school classmates and friends, Leslie, died last week after a long struggle with cancer. Her brother, Tommy, posted the news on his Facebook page. Like most of the people I went to high school with, I hadn't seen Leslie or Tommy since leaving for college in 1980. Leslie was not among the one-quarter or so of our graduating class that gathered for our 30th reunion in 2010 and we've not gathered since. What current knowledge I have about almost everyone I went to school with in Lake Placid, NY, comes from Facebook.

One of the things I've learned about Tommy is that on matters of politics we, to put it mildly, do not agree. He is quite strident in his opinions and often uses childish nicknames and insults for leaders in the party he opposes. And he pushes back when someone disagrees with him. About 10 years ago, when I posted a mild disagreement based on my Christian convictions and vocation as a faith leader, he shot back telling me that I should stick to church and stay out of politics. After that, I stopped engaging him – and everyone else – on sensitive and controversial topics on social media.

It made me kind of sad because I remember Tommy, who is a year-and-a-half younger than his sister and me, as a fun and funny kid with a kind heart.

Along with Leslie and their brother Terry, he was active in musical theater and band. His mom was friends with my mom, perhaps because Leslie and I were born only days apart at the same small hospital. And because I knew that Leslie and I were pretty much on the same political wavelength, I once messaged her asking what happened with her brother. She said she didn't really know but that their family just steers clear of political topics.



Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

I'll admit I would wince at some of Tommy's posts and even considered "unfriending" him on Facebook. But when he posts about his wife and family, he shows nothing but joy and good humor. And he frequently "likes" my posts about music, concerts, food, vacations, family, Erie, etc. – all very noncontroversial – and often offers kind remarks.

And when he posted about his sister's death and the notes of condolence started pouring in, he replied to every single one. More than 250 as of this writing. Most were simply "Thank you!" but some included more personal notes. To mine, he replied, "Thanks Mike!! I know some of Leslie's fondest memories were Band, theatre, and MYF." I was quite touched that he remembered those activities that Leslie and I shared (MYF is Methodist Youth Fellowship). He wrote to another of Leslie's and my classmates, "Thanks Brenda. I'm thinking of you, Bonny, Mary Jo, and Leslie playing softball years ago." And in his post Tommy also joyfully noted that Leslie recently married Sheryl, her partner of 32 years.

This is why I will never cut him off because we disagree on politics. I hope that that chasm is more than bridged by our shared experience growing up in the same town, going to the same school, and knowing the same people. Tommy's thoughtfulness in replying to every person who expressed their sorrow and affection, even as he and his family grieve, is extraordinary and betrays a depth of character that I want to believe transcends our disagreements.

We have become so polarized, nationally, within our families, within our churches. And it is so easy for us to lose sight of what binds us together or fail to take seriously the reasons why we might find ourselves holding opposing views. In this age of social media, it is frighteningly easy to respond quickly and thoughtlessly to comments and viewpoints that might demand careful consideration and long reflection.

Of course, my plea to not disassociate from those we disagree with does mean that we must endure or tolerate continuing abuse or ridicule. I do not believe we should sacrifice our physical, emotional or spiritual wellbeing when our integrity and humanity are being assaulted or diminished. It may be that there are people who, for our own good, we should not interact with.

Now, I don't know if I will ever again interact with Tommy in person. As with so many people, we are friends of a peculiar kind made possible by social media. But I am grateful for that. Grateful that we can remember each other fondly, even though there are things we see very differently. Grateful that we can grieve and celebrate because of something we share that is bigger than our politics. My hope and prayer is that in these divisive times, we all might remember that, as children of God, we are so much bigger, so much more, than our divisions.

Grace and peace,



"Where Your Heart Is"



"Where Your Heart Is" is the theme for our 2025 Stewardship program. Over several weeks we will be reflecting on our faith and the ministry of our congregation. On Sunday, November 2 we will be dedicating our commitments to God and our local church.

Watch for more information about the hopes and dreams for the ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek.

Luke 12:33-35

³³ Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don't wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. ³⁴ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

**Join us for
Worship and Sunday School
Breakfast and a Movie**

9:15 a.m.

Kid's Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship

11:00 a.m.



**Community
Blessing of the Animals Service**

Sunday, October 5, at 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.



**October 2025
Worship Leaders**

Liturgists

Greeters

Sun., Oct. 5	Don Duckett	Mary & Jim Stewart
Sun., Oct. 12	Jasmine Mosier	Becky Johnson
Sun., Oct. 19	Bill Nesgoda	Sue & Dave Beighley
Sun., Oct. 26	Scott Shunk	Bob & Sue Kellerman



**Lectionary Readings
October 2025**

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

Sunday, October 5, 2025 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous

Lamentations 1:1-6

Lamentations 3:19-26

2 Timothy 1:1-14

or Psalm 137

Luke 17:5-10

Complementary

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Psalm 37:1-9

Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 12, 2025 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Psalm 66:1-12

Luke 17:11-19

Complementary

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Psalm 111

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 19, 2025 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous

Jeremiah 31:27-34

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Psalm 119:97-104

Luke 18:1-8

Complementary

Genesis 32:22-31

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Psalm 121

Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 26, 2025 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous

Joel 2:23-32

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Psalm 65

Luke 18:9-14

Complementary

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Psalm 84:1-7

Luke 18:9-14

More Worship News



World Communion Sunday Sunday, October 5

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. The pursuit of peace in the name of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith — a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us ... and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

QUICK FACTS

- Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.
- 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions.
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

We will be receiving the Peace & Global Witness offering on Sunday, October 5 during worship. Listed below are examples of resources for families in need. The prices reflect the approximate/average cost of providing the items to families where most needed. Consider making a donation at one of the levels listed and note the impact your gift can make.

- Supplies for Displaced Students

\$30



- Refugee Food Basket

\$50



- Teacher Training

\$85



Gifts of any amount to the Peace & Global Witness Offering will help build a more just and peace-filled world.

♪ Music Ministry ♪



For as long as we can remember music has been a central to the worship and ministry of this congregation. We are blessed with musicians who truly enjoy making "a joyful noise unto the Lord." They are dedicated to sharing their gifts in worship and have a lot of fun, too.

The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:00, and the Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00.

Attention to those who love to sing or ring a bell, but are hesitant to join the chancel or bell choirs. Many feel that way at first, but with the support of our choir director and other singers and players you will love it! Give it a try!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

WORD SEARCH

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

☐ BUILDS
☐ MUTUAL
☐ WITNESS
☐ ACTIONS
☐ HELP
☐ LOCAL

☐ HEARTS
☐ JESUS
☐ WAR
☐ SAFE
☐ YOUTH
☐ HANDS

☐ UNFAIR
☐ RECONCILIATION
☐ CHILDREN
☐ WORLD
☐ ADULTS
☐ PURSUE

☐ GLOBAL
☐ OFFERING
☐ SORRY
☐ ROMANS
☐ JUSTICE
☐ WORDS

Play this puzzle online at: <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8457772/>

Spiritual Formation Opportunities ...



COFFEE, TEA & GOD

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

Our study of the Psalms of Ascent has been well attended and enjoyed by the participants.

The first session was led by the Rev. Anita Bernhardt our General Presbyter. We learned about the melodic nature of the Psalms, and how they follow the Hebrew poetic structure. Rev. Bernhardt laid an excellent foundation on how to study the Psalms in our effort to understand the nature of God.

The second session was led by the Rev. Mary Louise McCullough. She introduced the study by talking about our “home,” our church home and the relationships we have uniquely within the church. We realize how God has gifted us with community in which we can grow, celebrate our joys and be comforted in pain and sorrows. She then opened the reality that life has its challenges, hurts, and conflicts. The Psalms and all of scripture addresses the ups and downs of life and can bring us hope even in the worst of times.

The study is held every other Wednesday starting at 9:30 a.m. Here are the upcoming sessions:

Wednesday, October 8th Session 3
"Great Things for Us"

Wednesday, October 22th Session 4
"A Fruitful Vine"

Wednesday, November 5th Session 5
"My Hope Is in the Lord"

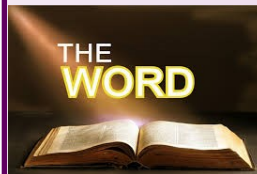
Wednesday, November 19th Session 6
"Blessings from Zion"



Breakfast and a Movie

Breakfast and a Movie is back! We have been watching "Oh God!" Come and join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for breakfast with the movie to follow.

WINE AND THE WORD



The "Word" is coming back....but not right away. With the beginning of the Bible Study class every other week it makes sense not to overburden you with TOO much to read and discuss, so W & W will debut in January, keeping the every other Sunday night at 6:00 time slot on Zoom. More details will follow in December and early January so you won't miss it. STAY TUNED!!



Thank you to the 25 that contributed to Erie Gives, we received \$26,208—of which \$818.00 was from matching funds. Your donation is greatly appreciated.



Preschool News ...

Hello, everyone! The new school year has begun and our Preschool has gotten off to a wonderful start! I am very glad to welcome back my terrific staff, who are all dedicated and hard-working individuals. I feel very blessed to have them back “on board” again this year!

Our preschoolers are doing very well! The returning children have jumped right back in and the new children are definitely becoming comfortable with our routines. Even the Bears (the youngest group) are getting used to “lining up” and are having fun moving from one room to the next. The children are singing, playing, exploring, moving, learning and enjoying!

During these initial weeks of school, we talk about making friends, sharing, cooperating, listening to the teachers, staying in line, etc.– all those things that are needed to acclimate them to a Preschool setting. This is done prior to introducing the alphabet letters, which occurred toward the end of September.

A total of 115 preschoolers, parents and grandparents traveled to Waterford at the end of September to attend our Port Farm’s “Family Fun” Event. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed all of the many and varied activities. Every time we visit, there is more to see and do at the farm! It is an AWESOME place!!!!

Then in October the preschool families and staff will visit the downtown Children’s Museum for a wonderful and educational event. It was our first trip there since they expanded and we were very impressed!

October will be a very busy month at Preschool! We started to learn and/or review our alphabet letters, letter sounds, shapes, numbers, Kindergarten sight words, etc. We will work hard at practicing our songs and poems for fall and Halloween, while also learning about autumn, pumpkins, scarecrows, leaves and other seasonal concepts. All the children will enjoy painting their small pumpkins and each one will be a masterpiece!

It is wonderful to see our classrooms filled with energy, enthusiasm, smiling faces, and caring hearts! There is nowhere else that we would rather be! Until next time. . . take care and may God bless you and yours!

“Happy Fall,” everyone!

The Preschool





**First Presbyterian Church
6724 Buffalo Rd., Harborcreek, PA
814-899-1031**

Fall STEAK Swiss DINNER

Saturday, November 8, 2025

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.**



Swiss Steak Dinner

Our Fall Swiss Steak Dinner is set for Saturday, November 8 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This 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. Watch for announcements in upcoming bulletins for when the sign-up sheets are available.



**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.

God saw that it was good.

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. Genesis 1:1-5

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
Barbara (Suter) Bojarski
Claudia Brown
John Brown
Margaret Crider
Robin Cuneo
Linda De Angelo
Family of Jessie Denniston
Dave English

Family of Bill Fannin
Pat Feddersen
Mary Ellen Flowers
Ron Flowers
Joan Graham
Sue Haynes
Morgan Johnson
Joyce Kriner
David Lyon

Dick May
Mellish Family
Peg Nelson
Ann Nesgoda
Esther Noonan
Nancy Shaffer
Rich Smit
Sandy Spangler
Carl Steiner

Marge Suter
Ron Washe
Tina Wasila
Family of Lee Woodard
Zanita Zacks-Gabriel



October Birthdays

- 7 Oliver Palmer
- 8 Ed Ellwood
- 13 Madison Williams
- 16 Bill Stewart
- 18 Pat Facchine
- 22 Norah Rose Woodward
- 19 Jane Wile
- 23 Debi Lyon
- 27 Mary Stewart
- 28 Jordan Lee Erickson
- 28 Marnie Logan
- 30 Jasmine Mosier

October Anniversaries

- 9 Ron & Mary Ellen Flowers
- 19 Jared & Aye Mosier

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

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

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



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 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



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder of the Month GIL long 814-440-9457 Deacon of the Month Nancy Way 814-899-2828			1 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4
5 Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Adult S.S. Movie Kids S.S. 9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Blessing of Animals 2:00 p.m.	6 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	7	8 Coffee, Tea and God 9:30-11:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 9:15 a.m. Adult S.S. Movie Kids Sunday School begins 9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Nominating Com. following worship In Pastor's Office Birthday Sunday following worship	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
19 Breakfast begins at 9:15 a.m. Adult S.S. Movie Kids Sunday School begins 9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	20 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	21	22 Coffee, Tea and God 9:30-11:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Breakfast begins at 9:15 a.m. Adult S.S. Movie Kids Sunday School begins 9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	27 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	28	29 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	30	31	