



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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August Newsletter Volume 2026, Issue 6

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

Imagine you're invited to a big family reunion where you know no one but everyone else has been together for years, decades, generations. Then you are told that you are now the head of family. That's the analogy with which John Galloway, Jr. begins his book *Ministry Loves Company: A Survival Guide for Pastors*.

That book was assigned to Mary Louise and me by our first executive presbyter, Wayne Yost, when we were brand-new pastors in our first calls. And as we've moved through ministry in Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Pennsylvania (again), and in rural, suburban and urban contexts in churches large and small, that family reunion image has proven remarkably durable.

You all know each other. You've journeyed together through all the stages of life. You have worshiped and eaten and served together. You have a unique history of joys and sorrows, triumphs and conflicts. You have your own shorthand of references and jokes. You know all the reasons behind the sometimes-baffling behaviors, practices, events and placements of objects that every new pastor encounters. You have your own peculiar set of things "we never" and "we always." Then there's music; take two churches with the same hymnal and one will have often-sung favorites that are unknown to the other. And the expectation is that the new head of the family – the new pastor – is going to either know all of that before they start or figure it out before their first Christmas.

I've been with you all for four Christmases now – long enough to have a handle on that most tradition-bound of holidays. And I'm getting better at your histories, both personal and congregational. I'm certainly better acquainted with many of your insider jokes, practices and object placements. Of course, I'm still learning and will likely never stop. But I'm feeling a comfortable familiarity, an ease that makes me feel like I really am part of your church families.

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I started thinking more deeply about this a few weeks ago when the pair of offering collectors at Emmanuel came down the aisle during the doxology and stood in front of me for the prayer of thanksgiving. And the three of us just started laughing for no reason. It was a small, shared, unguarded moment that spoke volumes about how far we've come in these last four years. I'm sure that when the first pair walked forward on my first Sunday none of us knew quite how to act. I know at both churches I wondered how formal I should be or how loose. What were your expectations of me, what were mine of you?

Certainly every church has different expectations of their pastor, those that are spelled out in contracts and job descriptions as well as those often-tricky unwritten expectations. And pastors, too, can make assumptions. One that I made based on my past experiences is that it was my responsibility to find the fill-in preacher when I'm on vacation. Never once have I served a church where the worship committee or session took on that responsibility. You can imagine my delight when I learned that both Emmanuel and Harborcreek leaders take care of that. It is a wonderful gift to be able to approach vacation or study leave without the extra work of finding someone to fill the pulpit. I've also been blessed by your support of my extracurricular musical adventures, and by your patience with the fact that I'm a shared pastor and all the compromises that entails.

Perhaps I've been thinking about where we've been and where we are in our journey together because it was in August 2022 that Mary Louise and I made our first ever trip to Erie to meet with the PNC. I have a photo of Mary Louise sitting on a wall on Dobbins Landing near Bicentennial Tower with the sunset behind her. Last week we celebrated our anniversary with a meal at Oliver's Rooftop and after dinner walked to that same spot and took the same picture. Except it's not the same. Mary Louise's short blond bob from 2022 is now long and flowing and white and gorgeous. And maybe that's representative of the wonders of Erie and the churches that have welcomed us.

More and more, this feels like home – even if I still don't feel much like the “head of the family.” Maybe that's because, somewhere along the way, without either of us quite noticing, we simply became family instead. And so I find myself looking forward, with real anticipation, to wherever this reunion takes us next.

Grace and peace,

Mike

Second Harvest Sounds



Second Harvest Sounds is a monthly, free, live music event held on the first Tuesday of the month (except January and July) at the JPT Foundation in Erie, PA. All proceeds

benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA.

The show starts at 6:00 with the house band, The Fabulous Leftovers Orchestra playing an eclectic set that can feature music from Steely Dan, The Beatles, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin and Santana, as well as deep cuts from lesser-known bands like Gentle Giant along with jazz standards and unexpected tunes from bands like The Cars and Gary Numan. Oh...and Pastor Mike is the FLO's drummer!

Then, around 7:30 another Erie band takes the stage. For August it will be long-time Erie favorites The Cows.

This is a great show for a great cause and is regularly attended by contingents from Emmanuel and Harborcreek churches. Why not join the fun?

The show is free but donations of money or non-perishable food items for Second Harvest are strongly encouraged. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages (include adult beverages). Food is sometimes available for sale but is unpredictable.

The JPT Foundation is at 2319 West 38 th St. (the old Hill's Plaza).

Worship News

Summer Worship Music 2026



August 2	The Harmonizers, vocal group
August 9	Joyce Kriner, piano
August 16	Andona Zaks-Jordan, violin
August 23	Sulley Moffett, vocal
August 30	Misery Bay Dulcimers
September 6	Brian Griffith & Bill Nesgoda, vocal



Looking
Ahead
to September:

Worship time will change to
9:16 a.m.
on Sunday, September 13

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

August 2026 Worship Leaders

Liturgists

Greeters

Sun., Aug. 2	Tiffany Kephart	Tracy & Ava Connor
Sun., Aug. 9	Jasmine Mosier	Dave Maille
Sun., Aug. 16	Nancy Way	Cylie Schrimper
Sun., Aug. 23	Jen Wedzik	Bob & Sue Kellerman
Sun., Aug. 30	Forest Mosier	Sue Mills



Lectionary Readings—August 2026

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

Sunday, August 2

Genesis 32:22-31
or Isaiah 55:1-5
Romans 9:1-5

10th Sunday after Pentecost
and Psalm 17:1-7, 15
and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
or 1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 10:5-15

11th Sunday after Pentecost
and Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
and Psalm 85:8-13
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16

Genesis 45:1-15
or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

12th Sunday after Pentecost
and Psalm 133
and Psalm 67
Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28

Sunday, August 23

Exodus 1:8-2:10
or Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 12:1-8

13th Sunday after Pentecost
and Psalm 124
and Psalm 138
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30

Exodus 3:1-15
or Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:9-21

14th Sunday after Pentecost
and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
and Psalm 26:1-8
Matthew 16:21-28

Mission News...

Mission Committee

A huge thank you to everyone who donated summer clothing and shoes to be distributed to the less fortunate. Support of this project was overwhelming!!!! The committee has decided to move forward with a winter clothing drive beginning September 1st thru October 31st. It's another opportunity for folks to clean out their closets and drawers and at the same time help people in need. There will be a bin at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience as we collect items for men, women and children. Sara, my liaison person with the Hamot Foundation within one day distributed all 55 coats that we collected last winter to folks in the area who did not have a warm coat. Sara mentioned that there is always a need for socks and underwear.

August 30th is our turn to feed the people at the Upper Room as we have been doing on the 5th Sunday of every month for many years. We will be serving a summer picnic to approximately 50 folks. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary for a few items to be donated and for servers.

Cancelled stamps have been delivered to a church in the city that collects them for a mission project. Keep them coming....

Eye glasses have been delivered to the Sight Center of Erie and will be shipped to folks in countries where eye care is not available. A local mission of the Sight Center is to collect magnifiers and clip on lights.

Our Blessing Cabinet has been an ongoing service to the community for many years. Because of the generosity and support of the individuals of HCPC member in our community have had food to eat and personal hygiene products.

A huge shout out to Bill Nesgoda, Peggie Smith and Sue Beighley who have volunteered to serve on the Mission Committee. Thanks also to Patty Graff for being the Chef for our committee along with Nancy Way as Sous Chef. With the help of these individuals in addition to Mary Stewart's help the Mission Committee would not exist. Of course without the support of the members of the congregations we could do nothing.

BLESSINGS and again THANKS,
Sue Kellerman, Mission Committee Chairperson

Back to School Supplies



The Ella Cochran

Food Pantry is once again collecting school supplies for our neighbors.

There are bags at the back of the sanctuary with shopping lists attached—some bags are for elementary students and some for high school. If you are able to help, please return the bag by Sunday, August 16.

Thank you for your support.

Mark your calendar...

ERIE GIVES
AUGUST 11,
2026



GIVING



For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. 2 Corinthians 8:12



Erie Gives!

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Erie Gives Day is this coming Tuesday! Your community needs you now more than ever! Support your favorite causes during Erie Gives on August 11, 2026. Brought to you by The Erie Community Foundation and its generous sponsors, the signature event promotes the nonprofit sector.

You can donate to the First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek. By participating in Erie Gives, the church will receive a prorated match from the Erie Community Foundation and their sponsors.

If you are using a credit or debit card, there are **no transaction fees!** You can make your donation on Tuesday, August 11, 2026:

- by phone at 814-454-0843 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.;

on the Erie Gives website at www.ErieGives.org from (12) midnight to (12) midnight.

Thank you to those who contributed to Erie Gives benefiting many wonderful non-profits and our congregation by check. Please know that your gifts were hand delivered and were verified.

This was a tough year for some non-profits as we were asked to re-submit numerous documents to verify our non-profit status. Although challenging, it was worth it. Many throughout the community will benefit and be blessed by your gifts and that of hundreds (possibly thousands) givers.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 814-881-9141.

Thanks again for your love and generosity to our church and our community.

Mary Stewart
Church Secretary



Caring Cabinet

Our Caring/Giving Cabinet has helped our neighbors who at times need a helping hand. With our struggling economy, these needs are increasing.

Please help us stock our outdoor cabinet with nutritious, healthy, non perishable foods, personal care and cleaning items. Here are some suggestions:

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| —canned vegetables | —canned dishes like ravioli or goulash | |
| —canned fruits | —soups of different kinds | —boxed potato or rice dishes |
| —cereals | —canned tuna fish | —spaghetti sauce |
| —canned chicken | —pasta noodles | —fruit juices |
| —drink packs | —dish soap | —shampoo and soap bars |
| —individually packed paper towels and toilet paper rolls | | |
| —disinfectant wipes and liquid cleaner...and the list goes on. | | |

You may bring your donations on Sunday morning or during office hours (MWF 9 a.m. till noon. Please leave your items in the entry way by the door.

Upcoming Study and Fellowship News...

Coffee Tea & God

"Freedom with God" is the theme of our upcoming Bible Study, "Coffee Tea & God" We will begin on Wednesday, August 12th, meeting every other week for 6 Sessions. Gathering time will be 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with Bible Study 10 - 11:30 a.m.



As the 250th Anniversary of our country continues, many people may be thinking about freedoms. We will be exploring the book of Exodus and what freedom looked like for the Israelites and how God graciously delivered them from slavery. We will be following Moses in the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet and the portrayal of the extraordinary hero of the faith.

Anyone interested and wishing to participate, please call our church office at 814-899-1031 and register. Workbooks will be purchased according to number applying and will be \$11. Deadline will be August 1, 2026. We look forward to seeing you as we take this "Walk of Faith".



Brunch and a Movie We're Back!

"Brunch and a Movie" will start up on Sunday, September 13th. Plan to stay after worship (worship has changed to 9:15 a.m.) and join us for a delicious brunch followed by a short (usually 30 minutes) movie and interesting discussion.

All are welcome!
Why not give this a try?

Consider giving . . .

ERIE GIVES
AUGUST 11, 2026

If you need help
figuring out the web
site call Mary Stewart
at 814-881-9141.



**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.

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.

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	Pat Feddersen	Joyce Kriner	Sandy Spangler
Claudia Brown	Ed Ferriss	Bridget & Jeff Laughlan	Carl Steiner
John Brown	Mary Ellen Flowers	David Lyon	Marge Suter
Margaret Crider	Ron Flowers	Mellish Family	Family of Ron Washe
Robin Cuneo	Jack & Joan Graham	Joy Mosier	Tina Wasiela
Linda De Angelo	Jan Hanes	The Family of Ann Nesgoda	Abigail Wilkinson
Tim Dyer	Sue Haynes	Esther Noonan	Zanita Zacks-Gabriel
Jim Erickson	Morgan Johnson	Nancy Shaffer	



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
21 Alisabeth Goetsch
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

Pat Feddersen
4101 Backus Road
North East, PA 16428

Jacque Foust
8467 East Lake Rd.
Erie, PA 16511

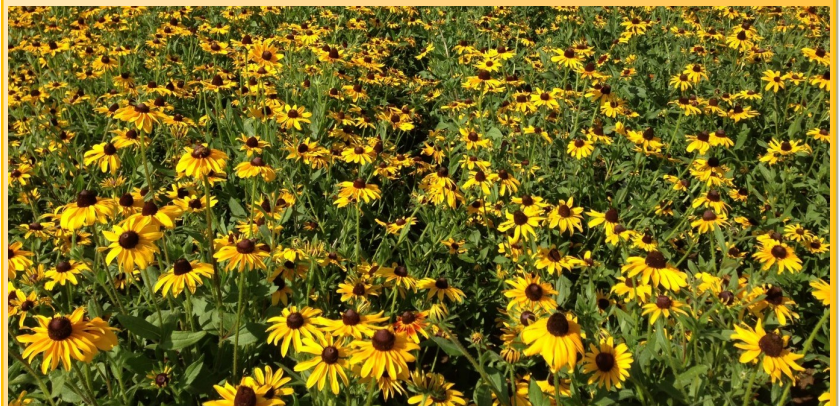
Jack and Joan Grahman
Brevillier Village
(Jack is in Ball Pavilion)
(Joan is in Barnabas Court)
5416 E Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511

Esther Noonan
7554 McGill Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421

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

Marge Suter
Ball Pavilion
Brevillier Village
5416 E Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511

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





August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	3 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Emmanuel Picnic Shades Beach 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
9 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	10 Deacons 1:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	11 Erie Gives!!	12 Coffee, Tea & God Bible Study 9:30 -11:30 a.m.	13	14	15 Tiffany and James Wedding & Reception 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
16 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	17 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21	22
Pastor Mike on Vacation August 18-25						
23 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	24 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	25	26 Coffee, Tea & God Bible Study 9:30 -11:30 a.m.	27	28	29
Pastor Mike on Vacation August 18-25						
30 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	31 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	 Sneak peek into the beginning of September 2026				
		1	2	3	4	5
6 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship	7 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	8	9 Coffee, Tea & God Bible Study 9:30 -11:30 a.m.	10	11	12
13 Worship Time Change to 9:15 a.m. Brunch & a Movie 10:30 a.m.	14 Deacons 1:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19
Pastor Mike on Vacation September 17-21						