



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd.
Harborcreek, PA 16421

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January/February Volume 2020, Issue 1

Church Leadership

Pastor.....Robin Cuneo
Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. Sheldon "Tim"
Logan
Music Director.....Chris Thomas
Organist.....Joyce Kriner
Secretary.....Mary Stewart
Sexton & Librarian.....Eileen Kriner
Treasurer.....Jim Watson

Committee Chairs—2019

Clerk of Session.....Mary Ellen Flowers
Christian Ed.....Jennifer Wedzik
Membership Care &
Development.....Barb Griffith
Ann Nesgoda
Mission/Outreach.....Ann Nesgoda
Sue Kellerman, Jim Watson
Nominating &
Training.....Mary Ellen Flowers
Jennifer Wedzik
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman
Scott Shunk
Property.....Jared Mosier
Bob Kellerman
Stewardship & Finance.....Dave Maille
Bob Kellerman, Jim Watson
Worship.....Scott Shunk
Chris Thomas
Recording Secretary.....
Cindy Skladanowski

Deacons

Chairperson.....Nancy McNally
Secretary.....Bill Nesgoda
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith
Flower Coordinator..... Sally Wakeley
Caring Tree.....All Deacons
Scheduling.....Nancy Brown
Thanksgiving Baskets.....All Deacons
Correspondence.....Aye Mosier
Funeral Dinners.....Peggie Smith
Aye Mosier



God Loved You First

My family has plenty of experience in welcoming cats into our home. A number of years ago we agreed to cat-sit two older cats while their owners went to Florida for about six weeks. The cats were very shy to start with. They would spend all day hidden in the basement only venturing out occasionally for food or water. Then they would scurry again to their place of safety. But gradually, very gradually, as we showed these cats much patience and love, they started to come out for a little longer and then a little longer. Eventually they allowed themselves to be petted and finally to sit on our knees and purr. This took a long time, but even more importantly, it took lots of love. The cats needed to learn that they were loved and safe and it was going to stay that way. We watched them for a number of years after that and each time it took them less and less time to adjust.



Do you occasionally feel a bit like those cats? Do you feel the need to retreat and hide from the world? Do you find it necessary hide bits of yourself from others, because you are scared that you are not acceptable or lovable? The most important journey of our lives is discovering that we are truly loved – loved by our family and friends, but most importantly—loved by God.

It appears simple and straightforward to believe and accept that we are called, valued and loved by God. But, in practice, it is hard. We must grow into knowing ourselves to be utterly and unconditionally loved by God. As the prophet Isaiah writes, "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you..." (Isaiah 42:6).

It is also easy to feel that in order for God to love us, we need to improve. But God loves us first, and it is when we know God loves us that we can be transformed. Experiencing and accepting God's love empowers change – not the other way around. We will never be holy enough or good enough in our own strength. However, God's mercy and generosity are abundant, and God draws us into divine love just as we are – then as we stand in this love, we are transformed to become the people God intends us to be. Just like my friend's cats.

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It is when we know ourselves to be loved that we too can love. Then we are released to be our true selves; truly to worship and serve God and to be in the



loving relationship with God. Truly to be "a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness" (Isaiah 42: 6-7). Just like my friend's cats, to emerge from our hiding place.

So, how do we find our identity in being beloved by God? We do it by being open to the nourishment of God as we open the word of God and hear the story of God's love, and as we break bread together and are fed by the Spirit of God. We can choose to spend time in God's presence, waiting on God and being seeped in God's love.

I encourage you to try to find time every day, even if it is only a few minutes, wherever you are, to be quiet and to allow yourself to rest in God's love – to know yourself to be God's precious beloved child. For when each of us gets to the end of our lives, what greater end to our life's journey than to know that our identity is as God's beloved.

You are loved,

Mary Stewart

P.S. It is a privilege to share a few words with you. However, our prayer is that Pastor Robin is feeling better soon. Pastor Robin, you are loved and sincerely missed. May God lay a healing hand upon you!



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a request for the prayer chain, please speak to any 2019 Deacon or Peggie Smith (814-899-9103) to activate the prayer chain. We care about confidentiality so please let us know what information you would like to share and what is confidential.

Tackle Hunger with the Souper Bowl of Caring



The Souper Bowl of Caring utilizes our Super Bowl celebrations in America to mobilize people to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Beginning in 1990, its vision is to transform the Big Game into America's largest time of giving and serving. People collect monetary and food donations during the weeks leading up to and after Super Bowl Sunday. 100% of the money and food is then given directly to local charities of the group's choice.

Sunday, January 26

**Bring your cans of soup and
monetary donations to worship
to benefit
Ella Cochran (Harborcreek)
Food Pantry**

then...

Please **stay** and enjoy a warm bowl of **soup** & **dessert** with all your church friends. **Chicken Noodle, Meatless Pasta Fagioli, Chili and a Surprise Soup** are on the menu so far!

Yum!

Bring your appetite and conversation!



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

—"Letter from Birmingham Jail,"
April 16, 1963
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worship Schedules and Events



Lectionary Readings for February

<u>Sunday, February 2</u>	4 th Sunday after Epiphany
<i>Micah 6:1-8</i>	<i>Psalms 15</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 1:18-31</i>	<i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>
<u>Sunday, February 9</u>	5 th Sunday after Epiphany
<i>Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)</i>	<i>Psalms 112:1-9</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)</i>	<i>Matthew 5:13-20</i>
<u>Sunday, February 16</u>	6 th Sunday after Epiphany
<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</i>	<i>Psalms 119:1-8</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 3:1-9</i>	<i>Matthew 5:21-37</i>
<u>Sunday, February 23</u>	Transfiguration Sunday
<i>Exodus 24:12-18</i>	<i>Psalms 2 or Psalm 99</i>
<i>2 Peter 1:16-21</i>	<i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
<u>Wednesday, February 26</u>	Ash Wednesday
<i>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12</i>	
<i>Psalms 51:1-17</i>	
<i>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</i>	<i>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</i>
<u>Sunday, March 1</u>	1 st Sunday in Lent
<i>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</i>	<i>Psalms 32</i>
<i>Romans 5:12-19</i>	<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>



Liturgists and Greeters/Ushers for January and February

January 19

Liturgist: Sally Wakeley
Greeters: Dale & Trish Claypoole

January 26

Liturgist: Jim Watson
Greeters: Marge Suter & Peggie Smith

February 2

Liturgist: Dave Maille
Greeters: Jared & Aye Mosier

February 9

Liturgist: Marnie Logan
Greeters: Barry & Jane Wile

February 16

Liturgist: Kyle Foust
Greeters: Kyle & Evan Foust

February 23

Liturgist: Debi Lyon
Greeters: Dave & Sue Beighley



The Season of Lent Begins



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We will be observing the tradition of receiving ashes.

During Ash Wednesday services, on the first day of Lent, many pastors will invite their congregations “to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word” While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might “observe a holy Lent.”

There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Drive-Thru Ashes

Wednesday, February 26

10 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26

7:30 p.m.



**Connectional Ministry
2020 Per Capita**

As part of a connectional church system, we contribute \$32 per member to help support the Lake Erie Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity and the Biennial General Assembly. We ask members of the congregation to help with this obligation by covering their part of the apportionment by the end of March. There is a special blue envelope in your offering box or you can just write "per capita" on a generic pew envelope (or memo line of your check).

ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, February 2

Immediately following worship



**January/February 2020
Preschool Newsletter**

**"Hi-Ho! Hi-Ho!
It's back to school we go!"**

The preschoolers participated in a wonderful Christmas Program (where they performed 23 songs and poems for their parents and grandparents), followed by some vacation time. We are now glad to be back at school, as we welcome in the year "2020" with our friends!!!

January was a flurry of various school activities involving letters "K" through "O." The children were especially excited about "L" week, when they brought their lunch to school and ate it with their friends! Several children returned to Preschool wearing a new look -- eyeglasses!! - due to the free vision screening, done by the Sight Center, that took place last month at the Preschool. The much enjoyed Barber Center's annual "Kids on the Block," life-sized puppet program, visited at the end of January!

The boys and girls are now busy practicing their addresses and phone numbers, along with number, letter, and

letter sound recognition skills, and even some Kindergarten words! -- as we start to evaluate for our second Progress Report at the end of February.

We are very pleased to announce that our **terrific** Preschool families donated **over 388!!! personal hygiene items** for the Harbor Creek Food Pantry right before Christmas. This was done in place of a student Christmas gift exchange! Right now the preschoolers are busy collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the children who attend the Benedictine Downtown Kids' Café.

February brings several special activity days to the Preschool: Pancake and Pajama Day, Popcorn Day, and Valentine Celebration Day. Who says "learning" isn't "FUN"!!

February/March is when we hold our **annual Pretzel Sandwich Fundraiser** - from **February 10 through March 20**. Sandwiches sell for \$3.50 and you have the option of Ham & Swiss or Turkey & Provolone. Money is due March 20th. Sandwiches are made fresh from Gary's Superette and will be **delivered to the church Wednesday, April 1st**.

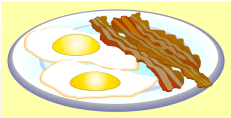
As you can see, we are always very busy at Preschool! Until next month, take care and stay warm!

Char Chmielewski

P.S. If you already shop at Giant Eagle and have not yet signed up for the "Apples for Students" program, which benefits the Preschool, please do so this month. Our school code is 5376. Many thanks for signing up!

Learning Opportunities...

On Sunday Mornings...



Breakfast and a Movie

9:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST** in the Fellowship Hall

9:45-10:30 a.m. **MOVIE** in the Youth room downstairs

We hope we see you there even if it is just for breakfast or just for the movie. But **COME** for **BOTH** if you can!!!

A short discussion of the movie and how it pertains to our lives and our faith follows the movie. See **YOU** there!



What's in the Bible?

Kid's Sunday School

Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Come along with us and learn about God's great rescue plan! This year we will be learning about the stories in the Bible in new and exciting ways - movies, music, and more! This is one journey through the Bible you won't want to miss. Find out why you want to know more about "What's in the Bible."

**Every Sunday at
9:45 a.m.**



Come and chat with Rev. Tim at the manse (parsonage) or at the picnic table. What's on your mind? Do you have any questions? Rev. Tim can help you sort out the mysteries of life in Harborcreek.

On Monday Evenings...

Wine and the Word



The next edition of Wine and the Word continues!

On Monday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m., we meet at the home of Dave and Andrea Maille. We will begin a Bible study on the "Great Themes of the Bible."

Study guides will be emailed the week prior to the study or you can pick up a copy in the church office. Please call the church office if you would like yours emailed.

SO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE QUIZ



I KNOW THE BIBLE
QUIZ CHALLENGE!

Ruth is only four chapters and is a story of remarkable leap of faith of a young girl.

Samuel contains the stories of Samuel, King Saul, and King David's trials before he was crowned king. Second Samuel covers the reign of King David.

1. After the deaths of all their husbands, Naomi told her widowed daughters to go home. Who refused? (*Ruth 1:14*)
2. Boaz saw that Ruth had left her homeland and people out of loyalty to her mother-in-law. He prayed that God would do this. (*Ruth 2:11-12*)
3. Ruth and Boaz became the great-grandparents of this famous Bible hero. (*Ruth 4:17*)
4. First Samuel starts with the life of the prophet Samuel. His mother gave him to priests to raise because she was so grateful for him. Her name was this. (*1 Samuel 1:21-23*)
5. When Samuel anointed David king instead of one of his seven older brothers, it was said that man looks at outward appearances but God looks at this. (*1 Samuel 16:7*)
6. David's best friend was Saul's son by this name. (*1 Samuel 20:4*)

Choose from: King David...Saul...Repay her...Absalom...Hannah...Ruth...the heart

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



4th Tuesday Fellowship – 2020

All meetings will be held at Noon in Fellowship Hall at 1st Presbyterian Church unless otherwise stated

- January 28 **Misery Bay Dulcimers** - Learn about this instrument and its history. Also, an opportunity to try the Appalachian Dulcimer for yourself plus a short concert from the group.
- February 26 **Community Nursing Service of North East and Harborcreek**
They will speak about their experienced health care professionals that live in your immediate area and provide needed care quickly and efficiently. Their rehab team can help you recover from injuries or surgeries in your home.
- March 24 **The Erie Zoo** – they will bring some small animals (no snakes) and let us know what events, etc. they are having this year.
- April 28 **Steve Oler** – New Harborcreek Twp. Supervisor will join us for lunch and to talk about his vision for the township.
- May 26 **NWPA K9 Search and Rescue – Kathy Lamb** and others from group will bring some dogs and show us how they train them to search for people needing rescued or found.
- June 23 **Dodge House** – We will eat lunch at the Dodge House, tour the house and Nancy Brown will speak on the history and family of this historic home. Come directly to Dodge house.
- July 28 **Betsy Wiest** from the Sisters of St Joseph will do a power point presentation and talk about **Human Trafficking in Erie Co.**
- August 25 **Rev. Mary Stewart** - Will talk to us about her Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.
- September 22 **Threshold Choir of Family Hospice of UPMC** They will sing for us and explain what they do for hospice.
- October 27 **The Sons of Lake Erie (this might not be until 2021?)**
- November 24 **Sue Fuller** will speak about her mission teaching in Russia including what Christmas is like there.

OFFICE HOURS!

The church secretary will be in the office from 9 a.m.—12 noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Pastor Robin will continue her hours 10-1 Monday and Wednesday. Please keep in mind since pastors serves on required Presbytery committees she might not always be available during the planned office hours.

Office Phone number: 814-899-1031

Email Address: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com

Website: hcpresbyterian.org

God's love at work . . .



Cancelled Stamp Ministry

Dear Members of Harborcreek First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your box of cancelled stamps for leprosy. I am enclosing a letter I received after the last delivery I sent them—I am thankful to have a number of friends who still collect for me in light of the diminishing number of stamps we now receive. Your continuing involvement in this missionary effort is much appreciated.

Sincere thanks, Zoe Heal



Dear Zoe,

What an amazing gift! Thank you very much for the stamps you sent to us and for bringing us closer to a world without leprosy. We are very grateful for all your effort to save the stamps, trim them and send them to us. We continue to be encouraged by the enthusiastic response from stamp contributors and our goal is to raise \$7,500 in 2019, which will allow us to bring the cure to 75 leprosy patients! Through medical treatment, as well as education and rehabilitation, you are helping to restore dignity and courage to those who have suffered far too long.

Stamp wholesalers pay us \$10.00 per pound of trimmed stamps and this fundraising has helped make it possible to cure many of those suffering from leprosy. We are happy to accept any and all trimmed stamps, leaving no less than ¼ inch and no more than ½ inch paper border. You do not need to soak the stamps from the paper. There is no need to separate the stamps into different types and countries. Should you have postcards or entire envelopes dated prior to 1950, kindly ship them without removing the stamps as they are greatly sought after by many collectors. We welcome all foreign, as well as Canadian and American commemorative stamps.

Your kindness and compassion are felt by the friends and staff of effect:hope and by the many people we serve. We look forward to your continued partnership with this Mission of healing and hope. Please keep on sending us your used postage stamps so that we can work toward the day when leprosy is eradicated.

Sincerely in His work and service,
Myrna Larmet, Volunteer
effect:hope
The Leprosy Mission Canada



Remember Our Homebound

Some of you have asked about what you can do to keep connected to those who are unable 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.

Lois Cochran
4400 E. Lake Road
Apt. 257 Erie, PA 16511

Margaret Crider
Heritage House 30 East Street
North East, PA 16428

Jessie Denniston
1885 Rifle Range Rd. Cove 34
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

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

Sandy Spangler
Sarah Reed Retirement Ctr. Room 9
227 W. 22nd Street
Erie, PA 16502

Eleanor Stanley
Springhill Retirement Com.
2301 Edinboro Road
Erie, PA 16509



Recycling and Blessing Others !!



Aluminum Cans

A ministry start that start a number of years ago is growing! Dick Smith began collecting cans to recycle. All the money he collected went to benefit our outreach ministries to those in need. Peggie continues this ministry in memory of Dick.

But it has grown...the East Erie Moose Family Center is donating all their aluminum cans...it now takes a truck to get them to the recycling center each week!

You can help by placing your cans in the recycling can behind the church.

Cancelled Stamps

Please bring your cancelled stamps to church and place them on the table on the old entrance. The stamps are boxed and forwarded to a Leprosy Organization to benefit their cause.



Ella Cochran (Harborcreek) Food Pantry



Just a reminder our congregation supports the Harborcreek Food Bank. Nonperishable food items, paper products and personal hygiene items are always needed and can be left at the top of the stairs in the main entrance of our church.

Helping the Homeless

A BASKET has been placed in the old vestibule for collection of travel size personal care products to be given to the homeless at The Upper Room. Please consider donating those little bottles from your hotel stays. Thanks, Mission Committee



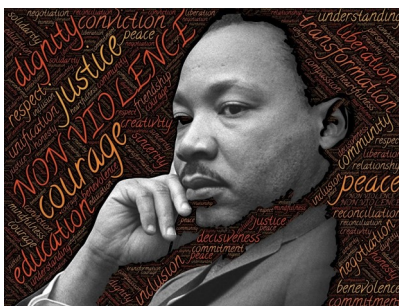
Greeting Cards

Thanks to everyone who has brought greeting cards to church. I recently mailed another box of cards to St Jude's Ranch for them to repurpose and sell in their gift shop and on their website.

Please continue to bring the cards to church and place them in the basket provided on the table in our old vestibule. There are additional restrictions so PLEASE provide the entire card.



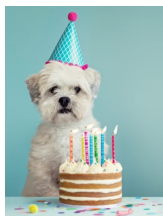
Blessings,
Sue Kellerman
Mission Committee



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

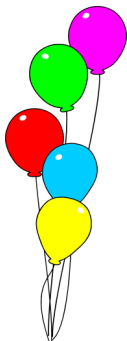
Church Family News...



January and February Birthdays!

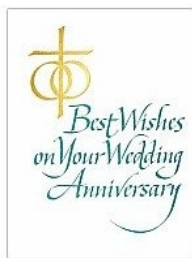
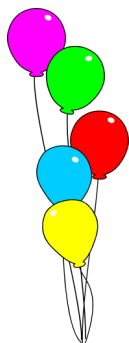
January

- 13 Trish Claypoole
Marty Dale
- 15 Michael Schrimper
- 23 Peggy Nelson
Logan Williams
- 30 Nancy Way
Kathy Stewart
- 31 Mary Ellen Flowers



February

- 5 James Watson
- 7 Sue Resinger
- 18 John Brown
- 23 Larry Hanes
Carol Mulvin
- 27 Ryan Lemke
- 28 Jeremy Stewart
Jim Stewart



January and February Anniversaries!

January

- 15 Bill & Ann Nesgoda

February

- 22 Bob & Linda DeAngelo
- 28 Dean & Joanne Scott

If you notice an incorrect or missing birthday/anniversary, prayer request or one that is listed that should no longer be there, call the church office 899-1031 and we will update our records.










Prayer List: For those serving in the armed forces. Ricky Hinkle, Jeremy Rockwell, Ryan Lemke, & Brian Hellmann. For the Lake Erie Presbytery & its leaders; for our pastor, Robin Cuneo, for church members, family & friends, we pray.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Barb Bemis | Beverly Leighton |
| Claudia Brown | Dick May |
| & Mike Faycheck | Hannah May |
| Lois Cochran | Emily Mellish |
| Jeanette Comstock | Jim Nelson |
| Margaret Crider | Yvonne Peters |
| Robin Cuneo | Sandy Spangler |
| Donna Fannin | Bill & Sandy Stewart |
| Kevin Fisher | Bill Stewart |
| Shirley Hamm | Tammy Stewart |
| Rachel Hube | Larry Stultz |
| Dave & Judy Johnson | Megan Swezey |
| Pat Kocher | Ann Trohoski |
| Ann Marie Kodba | Sally Wakeley |
| | David Zacks |



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19  Sunday School and Worship	20  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	21  Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m.	22  Property Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26  Sunday School and Worship Souper Bowl Luncheon following worship	27 Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m. Wine and the Word 6:30 p.m. at the Maille's	28  4th Tuesday Fellowship 12:00 noon	29  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	30	31	1

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> Every Sunday: Breakfast and a Movie 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Teen Talk 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. </div>						1
2  MEETING Annual Congregational Meeting following worship	3 Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m. Wine and the Word 6:30 p.m.	4	5  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	6	7	8  MEETING Trail Blazers Meeting 10:00 a.m.
9  Sunday School and Worship	10  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	11	12  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	13  MEETING Deacon Meeting 2:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	14	15
16  Sunday School and Worship	17 Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m. Wine and the Word 6:30 p.m.	18  Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m.	19  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	20	21	22
23  Sunday School and Worship	24  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	25  4th Tuesday Fellowship 12:00 noon	26 Drive Thru Ashes 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 p.m.	27	28	29