



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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November Newsletter Volume 2023, Issue 9

Church Leadership

Pastor.....Rev. Mike Wilson
Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. Sheldon "Tim" Logan
Music Director.....Chris Thomas
Organist.....Joyce Kriner
Secretary.....Mary Stewart
Custodian & Librarian.....Eileen Kriner
Treasurer.....Barbara Griffith

Committee Chairs—2023

Co-Clerks of Session.....Gil and Marlene Long
Membership Care &
Development..... Marlene Long
Mission/Outreach.....Ann Nesgoda
Barb Griffith
Nominating & Training.....Don Duckett
Mary Ellen Flowers
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman
Gil Long
Scott Shunk
Property..... Bob Kellerman
Dave Maille
Spiritual Formation.....Jennifer Wedzik
Stewardship & Finance.....Dave Maille
Bob Kellerman
Barb Griffith
Worship.....Scott Shunk
Gil Long
Jared Mosier
Recording Secretary.....Cindy Skladanowski

Deacons

Chairperson.....Bill Nesgoda
Vice-Chair.....Nancy Way
Secretary.....Nancy Way
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith
Caring Tree.....Nancy Way
Correspondence.....Joanne Scott
Flower Coordinator.....Sally Wakeley
Funeral Dinners.....Sue Beighley
Greeters/Liturgists.....Deacon of the Month

A Message from Pastor Mike...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Immediately” – in Greek *euthus*. The Gospel writer we call Mark uses that word more than 40 times. It’s sometimes translated as “straightaway,” “just then,” “as soon as” and similar variations. But it’s always the same Greek word. Mark uses it to propel his story forward with speed and urgency. And there is a breathless quality to Mark. Of the four Gospels in the New Testament, it is the shortest and the action almost never stops. In John’s Gospel Jesus *talks* a lot, sometimes in chapter-long speeches. But in Mark, Jesus is always on the move, *doing* things; healing, exorcising unclean spirits, feeding people. You get the sense that his disciples are not only trying to keep up with him theologically, they’re also just trying to keep up with him as he races from place to place.

And Mark’s Greek is, as of my teachers call it, “rustic.” It is not written in the refined literary style of, say, Luke. It’s more like a transcription of a campfire story, complete with inconsistent verb tenses and odd grammar. And its ending, with terrified women fleeing from an empty tomb, is not at all tidy.

I’m writing about Mark because around the time the *next* newsletter comes out that’s where we’ll be. Mark is the primary Gospel for Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary, which starts on the First Sunday of Advent (December 3 this year). And I’ll be preaching often from Mark. It’s my favorite Gospel; perhaps my favorite book of the Bible. I’ve studied it more – and have more books on it – than any other.



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And if you've never read a book of the Bible straight through in a single sitting, this is the one to try. It will only take a couple hours and you definitely won't be bored. And because Mark is relatively short and with an action-packed plot, you'll see pretty clearly how the story fits together and evolves. With Mark, it's easy to keep the narrative horizons, backward and forward, in view. Mark works like any good novel or movie where information, characters and plot points are connected and your understanding as a reader relies on what's already been disclosed. And Mark brilliantly uses allusion and foreshadowing to build anticipation and pull you forward.

Now at least some of my enthusiasm for a one-sitting reading of Mark is because we so often experience scripture in a disjointed way. The Lectionary offers a wide selection of passages from both testaments but we don't always know the narrative context of any individual passage. Or if the selection is from one of Paul's letters, we may not be aware of the larger theological argument of which the passage is a part. Imagine taking a two-hour movie and only watching half a dozen ten-minute scenes – and watching them out of order. *That's* how we often experience the Bible on Sunday morning.

So as we prepare for our liturgical new year and our journey through Mark, I hope that you'll attempt a beginning-to-end reading. And if you do, I might further suggest using a Bible – any translation will do – that does *not* have notes at the bottom so you won't be tempted to interrupt your journey. Read Mark as you would any novel. And finally, talk to me or write to me about your experience; I'll be eager to hear!

Grace and peace,
Mike

P.S. If reading Mark all the way through seems daunting, start smaller. Jonah, for instance, is a great story and quite unlike the other prophetic books around it. It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes.



News Points from Session:

- The Elder of the Month for November is Ann Nesgoda.
- Five members who have not participated in any church activities for an extended period were removed from the active member rolls in October.
- A Blessing of the Animals was held at the Harborcreek Township Building on October 8.
- The Fall Swiss Steak Dinner will be held on November 4.
- A retreat for youth in grades 6-12 will be held jointly with other local churches on November 4.
- Emmanuel will host a Music Night on November 18 in the Faith Café. Both Church Choirs and the Harmonizers will perform.
- We will host the annual Community Thanksgiving service on November 19.

Respectfully submitted,
Gil Long
Clerk of Session



Saturday, November 4, 2023

4:30-6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per Meal

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

**Swiss Steak, mashed potatoes
& gravy, green beans,
bread, cole slaw,
applesauce, and cookies**

Drive Thru Take Out Only

Worship News...



Community Thanksgiving Service

**Sunday, November 18
6:00 p.m.**

at First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

An ecumenical service featuring a community choir and led by pastors from several Harborcreek Churches.

NEW FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY



JOIN us on the Second Sunday of each month to celebrate the upcoming birthdays of the next month. Our first "Birthday Party" will be on January 14 immediately following worship. Come for some light refreshments and fellowship as we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY! And celebrate those born in

Media Ministry

We are asking for volunteers for the media ministry. Jeremy Stewart, Bill Nesgoda, and Jared Mosier have been bringing the streaming program to you for over 3 years now every Sunday.

Occasionally we get to have a Sunday off but those are rare. We would love to be able to spend time to join our families during the worship services also.

October Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
November 5	Brian Griffith	Nancy McNally
November 12	Bill Nesgoda	Pat Feddersen and Alisabeth Goetsh
November 19	Nancy Way	Cindy Skladanowski
	Thanksgiving Service	Sue & Dave Beighley
November 26	Don Duckett	Dave & Sue Beighley



Lectionary Readings November 2023

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for this month.

November 5, 2023 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Joshua 3:7-17 *Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37*
Micah 3:5-12 *Psalm 43*
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 *Matthew 23:1-12*

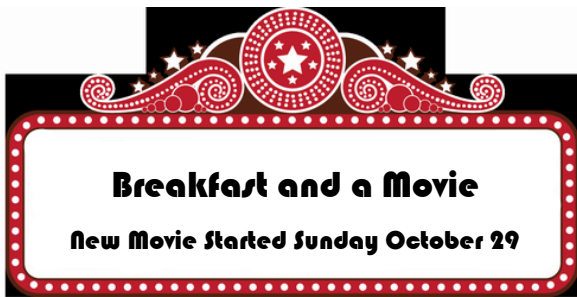
November 12, 2023 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 *Psalm 78:1-7*
Amos 5:18-24 *Psalm 70*
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *Matthew 25:1-13*

November 19, 2023 **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
Judges 4:1-7 *Psalm 123*
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 *Psalm 90: 1-12*
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Matthew 25:14-30*

November 23, 2023 **Thanksgiving Day**
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 *Psalm 65*
2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *Luke 17:11-19*

November 26, 2023 **Christ the King/Reign of Christ**
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *Psalm 100*
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *Psalm 95:1-7a*
Ephesians 1:15-23 *Matthew 25:31-46*

Spiritual Formation...



Breakfast and a Movie! Every Sunday starting at 9:15 a.m. come join the fun and fellowship. A light breakfast (lots of sweet treats!) is served before we watch 30 minutes of a thought-provoking movie and have a short discussion of what we just watched. A new movie, hosted by Ann and Bill Nesgoda, will start on Sunday, October 29. Now is the PERFECT time to join your friends and have some extra fellowship. See you there.



We, as a church family, care deeply about you and your family and friends. Through our Prayer Chain we can surround those in need with prayer. As we reorganize our chain, we invite you to join us in two ways:

1. If you would like to join the ministry of the prayer chain and receive prayer requests either by phone or text message, please call Pat Feddersen at 814-899-6054 or Nancy McNally at 814-450-2577 and have your name added to the list.
2. And if you have a prayer request do not hesitate to call either Pat or Nancy with your need. You need to let them know what information can be shared and if you want to add a name to the prayer list in the bulletin and newsletter.

Wine and the Word is back!!

6:00 p.m. at Harborcreek Presbyterian

The current book is "*Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*" by Amy-Jill Levine



Wine and the Word is held every other Sunday night at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Mike is currently leading discussions on the parables taught by Jesus. The next gathering is November 5th as we join with our Emmanuel brothers and sisters in exploring the deeper meanings in the Bible. Please join us!

Contact Brian Griffith at bgrif33@gmail.com or 814-459-8311 if interested.

2023 LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST

Churches & Pastors, Commissioned Pastors (CP),
Members-at-Large (MAL),
Honorably Retired (HR),
Validated Ministry (VM) & Other Leadership

November 5, 2023

Rev. Lee Beckes (HR)
Rev. Hal Kelley (HR)

November 12, 2023

District Pastor, Rev. Seth Nipani
District Pastor, Rev. Victor K. Tulasi
Second Pastor, Rev. Salome Oye
Second Pastor, Rev. Sylvanus Gawuga
Katiejeli District Upper Northern Presbytery,
9 Congregations
Bolga and Wa Districts, Upper Northern
Presbytery, 4 Congregations

November 19, 2023

Cooperstown, CP Diane Whitman
Moderator of the Coordinating Committee
CP Josh Botts

November 26, 2023

Eastminster, Erie, CP Henry Rafferty
Hartstown
Rev. Nelson "Bud" Horne (HR)

More News...



CHURCH TEE SHIRTS

It's your opportunity to proudly display the HCPC by purchasing and wearing a tee shirt displaying a picture of the church we love. The price of the shirts for youth to adults XL is \$8. Additional sizes thru 4X are priced a bit higher. See sample tees and order forms at the back of the sanctuary. All orders must be placed no later than 11/15. For further information please contact Sue Kellerman.

Fall STEAK Swiss DINNER

Saturday, November 4, 2023

4:30-6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per Meal

Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

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 Sized Personal Care Products** to be given to the homeless at The Upper Room.

♥ **Cancelled Stamps** The person we were sending our cancelled stamps to is not doing that any longer, so we have researched and changed the recipients of our cancelled stamp ministry. We will have more information on who that is in the next newsletter.

♥ **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.

SPECIAL DONATION OPTIONS

During the year you may want to make a special donation in memory (or in honor) of someone.

Following are the many options available:

Memorial Fund: This is a special account to collect funds to be used within the local church for worship and education related expenses. Monies can be earmarked for special projects and sometimes a plaque is dedicated to the memory of a loved one.

Endowment Fund: Generally donations (often memorials) can be directed to this Fund that is managed by the Presbyterian Church USA Foundation and their New Covenant Mutual Funds. Yearly dividends are split between missions and capital improvements for our church. As with most endowments, numerous options for bequests and investing are available.

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF/Building Fund): Donations directed to this account are used to make payments towards any loans (none at this time) and to provide 'seed money' for future projects. Recent ones were exterior painting and maintenance of the church and manse and a new bell tower roof, paving of parking lot.

General Fund: Of course donations are gratefully accepted any time to help support the general running of the church and its programs.

Feel free to contact any member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee with your questions. Current members are Dave Maille, Kevin Graff, Bob Kellerman, Linda Blum, Lisa Baumgardner, Barb Griffith, Cindy Skladanowski.

Church Family News...



November Birthdays

- 3 Dale Claypoole
- 8 Jim Butler
- 10 Jacob Graff
- 11 Don Duckett
- 15 Carl Steiner
- 17 Jessie Denniston
- 17 Linda Blum
- 21 Joanne Scott
- 24 Janie Hedlund
- 28 Lisa Baumgardner
- 28 Jonathan Priebe



November Anniversaries

- 2 Rod & Holly Hedlund
- 9 Denny & Linda Blum
- 13 Dave & Jennifer Wedzik
- 28 Lisa Baumgardner
& Jonathan Priebe

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



Prayer List: For those serving in the armed forces: Adam Bojarski (Suter). 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 | Dave English | Yvonne Peters |
| Tom Blose | Fannin Family | Wilda Resinger |
| Family of | Joan Graham | Sandy Spangler |
| Calvin Bowser | Judy Johnson | Peggie Smith |
| Claudia Brown | Bridget Laughlan | Rich Smith |
| John Brown | David Lyon | Carl Steiner |
| Connie Carrier | Dick May | Sandy Stewart |
| Margaret Crider | Mellish Family | Marge Suter |
| Robin Cuneo | Family of Bob Morrow | Tina Wasiela |
| Ed Ellwood | Jeannie Pamula | Abigail Wilkinson |

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 | Jessie Dennison
Wellmore Unit 4129
580 Robert Daniel Drive
Daniel Island, SC 29492 | 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 |
| Yvonne Peters
3913 Dexter Avenue
Erie, PA 16504 | Wilda Resinger
5456 East Lake Road
Barnabas Court South
Room 120
Erie, PA 16511 | Sandy Spangler
227 W. 22nd Street
Room 9
Erie, PA 16509 |
| Carl Steiner
c/o Heather Steiner
4847 Tramarlac Lane
Erie, PA 16505 | | |
| Ron Washe
4147 Bell Street
Erie, PA 16511 | | |



FAITH CAFÉ
SPECIAL MUSIC NIGHT
NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023
7:00 p.m.



Emmanuel and Harborcreek Presbyterian Churches have combined their talents for a fun filled night of music. Please join us for this special evening of musical entertainment and great fellowship.

Participants include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Emmanuel and Harborcreek Choirs | Harmonizers (vocals) |
| Bryan Hunt and Gil Long (guitar/vocal) | Caroline and Parker Strobel (flute/sax) |
| Jasmine and Friends (violin) | Six Hands Piano |
| Pastor Mike and Brian Strobel (drums) | Judy Hamilton (piano) |

Light refreshments will be served.

Harborcreek Presbyterian Preschool 10" Sub Sandwich Coupon
Fundraiser Order Form -- November, 2023

Please complete and return **JUST** the **BOTTOM** portion of this flier and **PAYMENT** to the Preschool **by or before Wednesday, November 8th**.

Checks or Money Orders should be made **payable to the Hbck Presby Preschool**. Cash will also be accepted as long as it is the **exact amount**.

10" Sub Sandwiches (either hot or cold ones) are \$8.00 each, come in a variety of choices, and MUST be pre-ordered and paid for by or before Nov. 8th! The **sub coupons** (one for each sandwich that you pre-ordered) will be sent home by Friday, November 17th.

People then redeem their coupon(s) at Gary's Superette (at 4703 East Lake Rd.) and get their sub sandwich(es) -- **whenever it is convenient for them during the next 3 or 4 months!**

These coupons make great "stocking stuffers" or small Thksg. and/or Xmas gifts!

Thank you in advance for your support of our annual fall fundraising project! It is **greatly appreciated!** **All proceeds benefit the preschoolers!**

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone who just wants to make a donation of any amount to the Preschool instead of purchasing sandwich coupons, is welcome to do so.

Thank you so very much for whatever you can do!

Child's Name: _____ Session: AM or PM
 Parent's Phone Number: _____ Homeroom Name: _____

TOTAL NUMBER of 10" Sub Sandwich coupons ordered: _____
Total Amount of Money Enclosed (Sub Sandwiches sell for \$8.00 each.) _____

** (Checks or Money Orders made Payable to the Hbck Presby Preschool)
 ** **All ORDERS and MONEY must be received by or before Wednesday, Nov. 8th.** **

To be completed by the Preschool: **Paid with:**
 _____ Check # _____
 _____ Money Order _____
 _____ Cash _____



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday Morning: Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School/Movie 9:45 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>			1	2	3	4 Swiss Steak Dinner 4:30-6:60 p.m.
Pastor Mike on Study Leave until Monday, Nov. 6						
5 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends Turns your clocks back and hour!</i>	6 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	7	8	9 Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:15 p.m.	10	11
12	13 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	14 Presbytery Meeting 2:00 p.m. Utica Presbyterian Church	15	16 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00 p.m.	17	18 Special Night of Music at Emmanuel 7:00 p.m.
19 Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00 p.m. at Harborcreek	20 <i>November Newsletter information is due!</i> Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	21	22	23 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	28	29	30	<p>Elder of the Month: Ann Nesgoda 814-602-6503 Deacon of the Month: Sue Beighley 814-460-1232</p>	