



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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September Newsletter Volume 2023, Issue 7

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



On August 11, 2022, I took my first picture of an Erie sunset from our room at the Bayfront Hampton Inn. Mary Louise and I had arrived earlier in the day and met the pastor nominating committee at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. At the center we saw a movie describing the four seasons on the Peninsula, complete with ice dunes, a weather phenomenon we had never heard of. Those few days last August – our first-ever visit to Erie despite having driven by many times on our way to Canada from Pittsburgh – were pivotal for us. We knew that accepting the call to Emmanuel and Harborcreek Churches would, in many ways, be an even more significant change than the one ten years prior when we left Pittsburgh for Nashville. But there were also significant and good reasons to take the leap.

For one thing, I've learned in my 20-plus years of ministry, and especially in my "journeyman" decade in Tennessee, that I'm happiest in smaller churches and there were good signs from the PNC and others I talked to that I would be happy at HPC and EPC. And both Mary Louise and I immediately recognized just how beautiful Erie and the surrounding area is. Plus, we still had all our winter clothes, boots and jackets from our previous time in Pennsylvania. We also both felt a sense of homecoming. In Nashville both Mary Louise and I were told, "You really talk about Pittsburgh a lot." And we had to admit that we really did love western Pennsylvania; the thought of coming back to a place where we already had friends and family was appealing. And as if to affirm that homecoming, the PA DMV gave us our old driver's license numbers back!



Now the PNC can confirm that I did not say "yes" until Mary Louise and I were on the way back to Nashville after that August visit. We still needed to talk it all through and a nine-hour car ride was the perfect time to do it (it actually only took about two hours on the road to make the call).

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Mary Louise and I have been on quite a journey together since we met in 1998. We've had five addresses in three states; we've purchased three homes; and between us we've served 11 congregations as full-time or shared pastor, including one where I was her associate. Plus, we've owned seven cars, had accounts at six or seven different banks, and endured a couple of serious health events.

We were recently sitting around talking about our newest home – what repairs or updates might be necessary – and the conversation drifted toward how our life together has been marked by periods of stability punctuated by dramatic change, change in location, ministry setting, family (all four of our parents died while we've been together, but we've also welcomed a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren) and more. And each change has been marked by both excitement at the new possibilities and a sense of loss for what we'd be leaving behind. Sometimes the loss is minor and easily absorbed – like when I traded my beloved Ford Ranger pickup for a Ford Fusion. Other times the loss stays with you – like when I knew it was time to move on from a call but still felt bonded to the people and their ministry.

We also reflected on how the lives of churches are also marked by periods of stability and then change. Often in churches the most significant change is in the pastor and it's an obvious one. I mean, it wasn't like I appeared gradually; one day I wasn't here, the next day I was. Other changes are less perceptible, like a decline in membership or attendance, at least until it becomes too obvious to ignore. But just because we're not perceiving those losses at a conscious level doesn't mean that we aren't feeling them deeply and over time. And it's quite possible that the long imperceptibility of those kinds of changes makes their realization all the more sorrowful.

I think it also makes those losses harder to address, harder to instigate the changes to attitude or practice necessary to forestall or reverse them. Perhaps the experiences of change that Mary Louise and I have navigated together, not to mention the decisions we made before we met – to leave our homes and jobs and move across the country for seminary – have taught us that, while change is often difficult and even unwelcome, it can also bring new joys and possibilities.

We were both confident that coming to Erie was absolutely the right thing for us. And Erie continues to reveal new and often unexpected joys. We saw a bumper sticker that said "It's OK to Love Erie" and we agree! That doesn't mean that it's not OK to miss Nashville or Pittsburgh. Both can be true.



We can run into problems when the feelings of sorrow, loss, frustration or anger that come with change override our acceptance that change is necessary, even inevitable. It does neither us nor the communities we are parts of no good when preserving the status quo becomes more important than the long-term survival and vitality of our lives, families, churches and communities.



September this year presents us with a pretty big change, the worship time swap. And I know that not everyone at both churches is super-excited about it. But it's what the churches agreed to when you decided to share a pastor – which itself is a big change! And to be sure, it will be challenging – for me as well as you. I'm confident, though, that we'll figure it out and adjust. But especially if you are feeling less than enthusiastic, or you are worried, or you are even angry, I invite you to give yourself over to it. Before you make a list of things that will be lost or difficult, perhaps you could imagine new possibilities. What new things might we do? What opportunities might we have? How might this worship time change even open us to new visions of how God is at work in our churches? And how might the admittedly forced experience of change make us more comfortable with other things we might try as we do our best to participate in the revelation of God's kingdom for *all* people?

It doesn't seem real that it's been a year since I captured a beautiful photo of smiling Mary Louise sitting near Bicentennial Tower with the sun setting behind her. *So* much has happened for us in the last year. And we both feel like there's so much more to discover; that's kind of how our life together has been.

And I look forward to the continued journey of discovery I am on with *you* in our partnership in this most beautiful place with our most wonderful God.

In shared ministry,

Mike

Don't Forget
Sunday, September 10,
2023
our worship time will
change to
11:00 a.m.

Worship News...

Starting

Sunday, September 10,
2023

**our worship time will
change to**

11:00 a.m.

**Sunday School and
Breakfast and Movie will
begin at**

at 9:15 a.m. with breakfast
and 9:45 a.m. movie and
Sunday School classes

September Worship Leaders

Liturgists

Greeters

September 3	Gil Long	Jim & Isabel Lyon
September 10	Dave Maille	Tim & Marnie Logan
September 17	Nancy McNally	Pat Feddersen & Alisabeth Goetz
September 24	Don Duckett	Sue & Dave Beighley

Lectionary Readings August 2023

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

September 3, 2023

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Psalm 26:1-8
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2023

Exodus 12:1-14
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Romans 13:8-14

Psalm 149
Psalm 119:33-40
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21
Romans 14:1-12

Psalm 114
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Philippians 1:21-30

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Psalm 145:1-8
Matthew 20:1-16

Looking ahead to worship October:



Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday
and Peace and Global
Witness Offering

Sunday, October 8

Blessing of the Animals
at Harborcreek
Township Building
Watch bulletin for updated information.



Sunday, October 29

All Saints/Memorial
Sunday



Watch for the insert in the bulletins
and October newsletter



Spiritual Formation...



Please join us for BREAKFAST at 9:15 a.m., followed by an inspirational movie at 9:45 a.m. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

ALL are welcome and now is a great time to make this a part of your Sunday routine.

First delicious light breakfast will be Sunday, September 10th. Please watch for a sign-up sheet to help supply the light breakfast items....or contact Barbara Griffith.



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!!

Sunday September 10th.

6:30 p.m. at Harborcreek
Presbyterian

(future times and details will
be determined that night)

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

September 3

Fairview, Rev. Emily Zeig Lindsey, Pastor
Kane Rev Carol Sharp

September 10

Union City and Mill Village,
Rev. Robert Willert, Pastor
Rev. Mary Kathryn Crom (HR)
Rev. Rick Cepris (HR)

September 17

District Pastor, Rev. Eusebius K. Agbesi
Tamale District, Upper Northern Presbytery,
11 Congregations
Second Pastor, Rev. Smith V. Freeman
Third Pastor, Rev. Christopher K. Nfodzo

September 24

Fairview, Church of the Cross,
Rev. Drew Himes, Pastor
Rev. Susan Speakman (HR)
Rev. John Dyke (HR)

LOVE IS PATIENT
LOVE IS KIND
LOVE IS...

Mission News...

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

1. Our first time back inside the Upper Room to serve dinner was a huge success. Pizza, watermelon and cookies were served and enjoyed by about 50 people. Thank you all who helped in any way. Our next dinner will be served October 29, 2023. Please watch for upcoming details. Sally Wakely and her knitting crew will have many scarves to take up to them. Thank you, Sally, and all your happy knitters.
2. The Committee has decided to support a project for The Auxiliary at Elmwood Gardens. We will keep you posted as to which project we will be supporting.
3. Looking forward... we will once again be receiving the Peace and Global Witness Offering on October 1. Please watch for more information
4. We would like to return to participation in the Erie County Crop Walk being held on September 24 at Presque Isle. Last year the Erie County Walk was the 12 th largest money maker in the nation and number one in Pennsylvania. 25% of the money collected stays in Erie County to provide for local food pantries to fight hunger in our own area. We need someone to say they will organize the walkers. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the back Bulletin Board for a Chair and walkers. We would love to have a large team of walkers. As there are some of us unable to walk, we ask that you financially support those who do. Hope to have great success!

THANK YOU ALL!

Mission Committee



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.



Mark your calendars:

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Fall Swiss Steak Dinner



**All Saints Sunday
and Memorial Sunday**

We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday and Memorial Sunday on October 29, 2023. Please have all memorial information to the church office no later than Sunday, October 22.

Please try to attend church on October 29 to present your rose in memory of your loved one.

More News...



Meeting Notes from Session

The Elder of the Month for September is Bob Kellerman.

Worship services will be at 11 a.m. starting on September 10. Breakfast and a Movie will resume at 9:15 a.m. and Sunday School will start at 9:45 a.m.

Wine and the Word will resume on Sunday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. The initial meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall.

Building maintenance issues for the Preschool Building were presented and considered.

Session approved hiring a nursery attendant during worship services.

A Vacation Bible School was held jointly with four other local churches on July 22 at Rolling Ridge Park. A total of 24 children attended.

A Blessing of the Animals will be held at the Harborcreek Township Building on October 8.

Respectfully submitted,

Gil Long, Clerk



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.

We would like to offer a training session on a day other than Sunday in the near future, if someone or many people are interested. We would like to be able to show and give experience to people that may be interested in helping out without the pressure of learning during Sunday Worship Service.

Some things are done at home like the slide creation (using Canva.com), hymn slides (using digitalsongsandhymns.com and PowerPoint), Scripture verses (using commonenglishbible.com and Canva.com). We will show you what it takes to create those. If you are interested in controlling the sound during the church service or running the streaming computer and cameras, we would love to show you and train you on those processes.

If you would have any interest, please, please, please let me know at:

media.ministry@hcpresbyterian.org and we will set up a training session. Thanks

Jared Mosier



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – PROPERTY MASTER LIST

On August 21st, a team from Stewardship and Buildings & Grounds did a detailed “walk around” of the C.E. Building; Church building; and all outside areas. The intent is to develop a “MASTER LIST” of items that need our attention in order to maintain and preserve our property and to ensure the safety of all.

The list contains items that need to be taken care of in the very near term – as well as those that of a longer time horizon – many simply due to cost.

Please review this list and we would ask everyone to consider how they might help out – any contribution of time or money would be most welcome. If you see an item that you want to volunteer to help with or even take full responsibility for, please just let Dave Maille or Bob Kellerman know.

LET’S MAKE THIS A TARGET LIST FOR OUR ENTIRE CONGREGATION
TO ADDRESS AND COMPLETE TOGETHER!

Thank You.

PRE-SCHOOL

Carpet on entrance ramp needs replaced.

3 benches in playground need scraped and re-painted. Re-nail any as seem necessary.

Two Railroad ties at left rear of playground by swings need replaced or a treated lumber “cap” put on top of existing ties.

Roof inspection needed and repairs that may be needed (**completed**)

Roof drain on right rear side of the building needs checked – concern that there may be some see page showing up on inside wall. (**not an active leak**)

C. E. landscaping- finish weeding, apply Round-up type weed killer, re-define front edge, trim shrubs and bushes, and add mulch to entire landscaped area.

The lighted cross on exterior needs one or more boards replaced and re-painted/stained. (**in process of being completed**)

SHED

The doors need repaired and the exterior needs painted.

CHURCH EXTERIOR

Railings along walkway into church need re-painted.

Need mulch put down in landscaped areas at church rear adjacent to parking lot.

East side of church – 3 storm windows covering stained glass windows need repaired or replaced

Front door of church scuffed up – appears to need scrubbed.

Presbyterian symbol/sign near side entrance needs cleaned and repainted. (**in process of being completed**)

Parking lot drain pits (2) need grate lifted out and pit cleaned out. May need to add drain holes.

Dave and Andrea Maille continue to make the front of the church look good with flowers/plantings. May need to remove or trim way back the ivy.

Longer Term – likely within the next 3 + years – the entire east side of the main church roof will need to be replaced. This is an \$\$\$ item.

Longer term – A very large tree on eastern property line off parking lot has a noticeable split and leans towards the church. Tree will need to be taken down. Another \$\$\$ item. (**to be completed 8/30/2-23**)

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SANCTUARY

The balcony support beam is inadequate – causes some sag in balcony edge. Need to replace with two larger support beams resting on floor joists.

Red velvet drape behind choir area may need replaced.

Longer term – The sanctuary has not been painted in approximately 50 years. Another \$\$\$ item.

Window in rear of balcony completely out of the frame – may need replaced.

LIBRARY ROOM

Plaster cracked on south wall. Should be dry walled and re-painted.

EAST window is inoperable.



DOWNSTAIRS – BATHROOM / AREA

Vinyl flooring / linoleum is badly stained and should be replaced.

Back stairway should be re-painted.

DOWNSTAIRS LOUNGE

With all new electric work and lights installed, (Thanks to Dave Beighley), a drop ceiling is now needed to finish the room.

De-humidifier runs but no longer removes moisture – Dave B. authorized to replace with new asap. **(Completed)**

OLD FRONT ENTRANCE / STAIRWAYS TO BASEMENT

Needs painted and carpeted

KITCHEN

Plaster in 2 windows

Gas line to warming table needs shutoff valve replaced. **CPT.**

ELEVATOR

Unit working fine – 3 year Inspection due before year end. \$1500-\$2000. item



All Saints—Memorial Sunday

Sunday October 29, 2023

Presented by _____ Phone Number _____

In memory of _____ Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

In memory of _____ Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Please return to the church office by Sunday, October 22, 2023

Church Family News...

September Birthdays

- 1 Nicole Dorman
- 4 Bill Fannin
- 14 Dena Barker
- 28 Christne Schrimper
- 29 Larry Resinger



September Anniversaries

- 4 Jeremy & Andrea Stewart
- 6 Jim & Linda Erickson
- 7 Laura & Jeremy Rockwell
- 11 Dave & Sue Beighley
- 13 Michael & Christine Schrimper
- 14 Kyle & Casey Foust



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 |
| Calvin Bowser | Joan Graham | Sandy Spangler |
| Claudia Brown | Judy Johnson | Peggie Smith |
| John Brown | Bridget Laughlan | Rich Smith |
| Family of Sue Butler | David Lyon | Carl Steiner |
| Connie Carrier | Mellish Family | Sandy Stewart |
| Margaret Crider | Dick May | Marge Suter |
| Robin Cuneo | Bob Morrow | Barry Wile |
| Ed Ellwood | Jeannie Pamula | Abigail Wilkinson |



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

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 | | |





September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Elder of the Month: Bob Kellerman 814-717-818-9158 Deacon of the Month: Sally Wakeley 814-397-4601				1	2
3 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 9:15 a.m.	4 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	5	6 First Day of School for Preschool	7	8	9
10 New Worship Time Starts 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m.	11 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	15	16
17 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m.	18 <i>October Newsletter information is due!</i> Stewardship/Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23 Emmanuel Canterbury Feast
24 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m.	25 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	26	27	28	29	30