



# First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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Live-Stream Worship: [Facebook@firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek)

## May Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 5

### Church Leadership

Pastor.....Rev. Mike Wilson  
Music Director.....Chris Thomas  
Organist.....Joyce Kriner  
Secretary.....Mary Stewart  
Custodian & Librarian.....Eileen Kriner

### Committee Chairs—2023

Co-Clerks of Session.....Gil and Marlene Long  
Membership Care &  
Development.....Brian Griffith  
Mission/Outreach.....Ann Nesgoda  
Nominating & Training.....Don Duckett  
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman  
Property.....Bob Kellerman  
Spiritual Formation.....Jennifer Wedzik  
Stewardship & Finance.....Bob Kellerman  
Worship.....Scott Shunk  
Recording Secretary.....Cindy Skladanowski  
Treasurer.....Barbara Griffith

### Deacons

Chairperson.....Bill Nesgoda  
Vice-Chair.....Nancy Way  
Secretary.....Nancy Way  
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith  
Caring Tree.....Nancy Way  
and Bill Nesgoda  
Correspondence.....Linda DeAngelo  
Flower Coordinator.....Sally Wakeley  
Funeral Dinners.....Sue Beighley  
and Deacon of the Month  
Greeters/Liturgists.....Deacon of the Month  
Prayer Chain.....Pat Feddersen  
and Nancy McNally



First Presbyterian Church of  
Harborcreek

## Message from the Pastor

I recently attended an all-day presbytery training event at First Presbyterian, Oil City and the Oil City folks served a really good lunch. We had roast beef sandwiches (plain roll or salt & caraway seed), two kinds of potato salad (one with beets!), tossed salad and, for dessert, a choice of white cake or gingerbread with ice cream, caramel sauce and whipped cream.



When I went up to get my dessert, I started chatting with a woman named Jeannie who had also fixed my sandwich and had strongly encouraged the salt & caraway seed roll. I learned that Jeannie was the lead kitchen worker and meal planner. The beets we enjoyed were grown and canned by her and she baked the gingerbread from scratch. I complimented her for her thoughtful preparation and generosity, and for how delicious everything was. She was interested which church(es) I was from and I gave her the quick version of my vocational journey. I learned about her, too; where she was from (Oil City and nowhere else), her love of cooking, her participation in the church. We had a lovely getting-to-know-you conversation, laughing and finding points of common interest and experience. Eventually I excused myself to get ready for the afternoon presentation and by the time we left, the kitchen was cleaned and closed and Jeannie had gone home.

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Now, I may never see Jeannie again. But I'd like to imagine that, by taking the time to talk and get to know each other, we put something good and memorable not only in each other but into the world. And it wasn't that hard. My simple and genuine compliment invited her to tell me about her beets and she was eager for me to try her gingerbread. And she was genuinely interested in what brought me to Erie. I believe the connection we made added to and strengthened the fabric of creation, that "tie that binds." Our "fellowship of kindred minds," mirrored, even if dimly, the mind of the divine that exists in community and relationship.

What might our fractious social landscape be like if we could begin our encounters with a recognition of our shared humanity? I'm under no illusions that Jeannie and I are going to be on the same page about *everything* just because we both believe that horseradish goes best with roast beef and that gingerbread is better than white cake. It's possible our votes will cancel out each other's. There may be some social or theological issue on which we will find no accommodation.

But I know for certain that I will never be able to ridicule or dehumanize her. I will never be able to separate her well-being from my own. She will never be for me an abstraction – a position or party or belief. By sharing something real and personal, even briefly, we cannot be for each other less than fully human.



Perhaps our challenge, in these challenging times, is to see each other – inside and outside the church – as fully real and genuine people. Each of us a person whose life is as real and precious as our own. A person whose joys and sorrows, likes and dislikes are as valid as our own. A person with whom we may vehemently disagree but who cannot be reduced to the source of disagreement. A person who we can trust and believe knows the truth about themselves as surely as we know the truth about ourselves.

In a few weeks we'll celebrate Pentecost, the so-called "birthday of the church." Jesus's followers were emboldened on that transformative day to go out into the world and proclaim the gospel. To go beyond Jerusalem, beyond Palestine, where they surely encountered people who were most definitely *not like them*. But their success tells me that they were able to see past their differences and appeal to their shared humanity, that shared spark of the divine that dwells – that abides – in each of us. As we continue our journey, individually and as a church, may we be so aware, sensitive and generous.

Grace and peace,

*Mike*

## BASKET AUCTION



June is just around the corner and it is not too to plan for our Annual Garage Sale scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairpersons of the Basket Auction are once again asking for your support.

The Basket Auction is the second biggest money maker of the Annual Garage Sale event. If you would like to donate a themed basket or just new items that can be used, that would be great and very much appreciated. Gift cards and Wine Baskets are some of the most popular items that folks like to "bid" on. So, if you have a gift card or more to donate, please see one of the chairpersons.

Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!!!

Chairpersons,  
Tiffany Kephart  
Sue Kellerman  
Mary Ellen Flowers

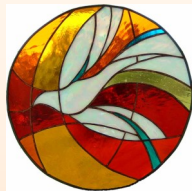
# Worship News...



Join for praise and worship through music on Sunday, May 12 at 9:15 a.m. We are so blessed to have so many talented musicians—let's celebrate their gifts! A special thanks to our music director, Chris Thomas and our pianist/organist Joyce Kriner; our instrumentalists James Davis on trumpet and Jasmine Mosier with violin. We celebrate the gifts our Chancel Choir and our Handbells, and the Harmonizers.

## **Pentecost**

May 19, 2024



On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

Come to worship dressed in red to signify the flame of the Holy Spirit.

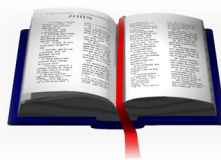
Then, plan to attend a special **Pentecost Sunday—Swiss Steak tureen lunch** after church. Just bring your favorite salad or dessert to share along with our famous Swiss Steak.



## Thank You

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make our recent spring Swiss Steak Dinner a very smooth running event! We provided over 400 meals to the community and our workers and had enough meat left over for a couple church events. Well done everyone!

*Dave Maille, Chair*



## Lectionary Readings

May 2024

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

**Sunday, Sun., May 5**  
*Acts 10:10:44-48*  
*or Genesis 35:9-15*  
*1 John 5:1-6*

**6th Sunday of Easter**  
*Psalm 98*  
*Psalm 101*  
*John 15:9-17*

**Sunday, Sun., May 12**  
*Acts 1:1-11*  
*or Jeremiah 10:1-10a*  
*1 John 5:9-13*

**7th Sunday of Easter**  
*Psalm 47 or 93*  
*Psalm 108*  
*John 17:6-19*

**Sunday, Sun., May 19**  
*Acts 2:1-21*  
*Psalm 104:24-34*  
*John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

**Day of Pentecost**  
*or Ezekiel 37:1-14*  
*Romans 8:22-27*

**Sunday, May 26**  
*Isaiah 6:1-8*  
*Romans 8:12-17*

**Trinity Sunday**  
*Psalm 29*  
*John 3:1-17*

## April Worship Leaders

### Liturgists

### Greeters

Sun., May 5	Nancy Way	Marge Suter
Sun., May 12	Debi Lyon	Joanne Scott Cindy Skladanowski
Sun., May 19	Scott Shunk	Jim and Izzy Lyon
Sun., May 26	Don Duckett	TBA

# Spiritual Formation and Fellowship...



## Breakfast and a Movie

Join us for Breakfast and a Movie every Sunday morning. Breakfast starts at 9:15, with the movie starting at 9:45.

Watch Sunday bulletins for more information.

Come join us!

## The Harmonizers and SeaWolves

A side note....those "adaptive singers" The Harmonizers will perform the national anthem at the Erie Seawolves game Saturday, May 11th at 1:35.

**Join us for these concerts right here at FPC Harborcreek:**

### **SYMPHONIC SINGERS OF ERIE**

**Sunday, May 5**

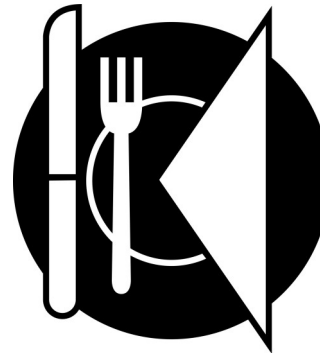
**3:00 p.m.**

We look forward to seeing you.  
Membership Team of First Presbyterian  
Church of Harborcreek

### **Gem City Concert Band**

**Tuesday, June 18**

Gem City Concert Band will be presenting a concert, under the direction of Brent Johnson, in the church parking lot on Tuesday, June 18 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Come with your lawn chair and enjoy a wealth of summer music. There may be some surprises also.



## 4th Tuesday Gathering and Lunch

The 4th Tuesday event for May will be an informative talk by Janet Overholt from the Lake Erie Hospice organization. Mark your calendars for 11:30 on May 28th. Please let the office know of your intent to attend. (June's 4th Tuesday - the 25th - will feature Bob Burnett from the Kairos prison ministry).

## Birthday Sunday

**Sunday, May 12**

Birthday Sunday will be held in conjunction with our Mother's Day celebration on May 12. Please stay after church for some special goodies.



## Wine and The Word

**6:00 p.m.**

**On via Zoom**



We will be concluding our study of "Making Sense of the Cross" on May 5. Watch bulletin for new study title.

This will be a group discussion type format where we can all contribute thoughts on what we have read. The book is VERY user friendly.

Please plan to join us. If you are interested in participating via Zoom please contact Pastor Mike or Brian Griffith.

# Church News...



**Annual  
Geranium Sale**  
**\$5.00 each**  
**or 4 for \$18.00**  
**Proceeds benefit the  
Mission Fund**

Order as soon as possible as the flowers are on a first-come-first serve basis.

Orders are due by Sunday, May 5. You can place your order by placing it in the marked box at the back of the church or getting it to Lisa Baumgardner by:

Mail: 7005 Garfield Avenue,  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Email: [lkbaum10405@outlook.com](mailto:lkbaum10405@outlook.com)

Text: 814-881-3788

Date for pick-up are: Thursday, May 16  
between 12-6 p.m.

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**2024 Geranium Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Each Color: # \_\_\_\_\_ White  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Red

# \_\_\_\_\_ Dark Pink # \_\_\_\_\_ Light Pink

Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**(make checks payable to:  
First Presbyterian Church)**

## News from Session April 2024

The Elder of the Month for April is Jen Wedzik and for May is Don Duckett.

A Birthday Party for members born in April was held after service on April 14. Approximately 40 people enjoyed light refreshments and fellowship.

The Fourth Tuesday luncheon in March featured Terry Lemke from Stan's Garden Center. Gary Foster will present chalk art on the Titanic on April 25.

We will host the Erie Symphonic Chorus on May 5.

Music Sunday will be on May 12, Mother's Day. This will also be Birthday Celebration Sunday.

Work to refurbish the Lounge area behind the kitchen downstairs will commence soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Gil Long, Clerk



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

♥ **Cancelled Stamps** Here is an easy way to help others—by saving your cancelled stamps on from the mail you receive. Simply cut them out (please leave a large border) and place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

♥ **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.

## ELMWOOD GARDENS

Dear Church Congregation,

Prior to October 1, 2023, Elmwood Gardens was under the ownership of Presbyterian Senior Care. Since that date we are under the ownership of LECOM. Prior to being purchased by LECOM the Presbyterian churches in our area had donated directly to our Auxiliary to provide many services to our residents that were not and continue to not be provided by the current owner of Elmwood Gardens.



We continue to keep these services available to our residents. I want to allay any concerns about the Elmwood Gardens Volunteer Auxiliary making any changes, because that is not the case. Our Auxiliary does many things to support our residents, such as monthly birthday parties, purchasing Christmas gifts for each of the approximate 80 residents and “hosting” a Christmas party, recognizing Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, in addition to providing Easter and Halloween treats, purchasing items for the monthly travel cart, covering the cost of the Lift for outings.

All of these and more are made possible to our residents because of your donations. Prior to COVID the Auxiliary held an annual campaign to raise funds to support these activists. It has been decided that May 2024 will be our campaign month. Your donations truly make a difference in our resident’s well-being and their quality of life. Auxiliary meetings are held at Elmwood Gardens the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30, please considering joining us. You are also welcome to attend any and all events and see the smiles on the resident’s faces many of whom do not have family.

Your checks should be written to the First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek and noted “Elmwood Auxiliary” In advance, thank you for your support and generosity. Please contact me for questions.

God Bless, Sue



## 2024 LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST

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

May 5	Watson Run and North Shenango Greg VanderVeen, preaching	Rev. Samuel Yao Amafu-Dey, Synod Moderr, Upper Northern Presbytery, Ghana
May 12	Girard Rev. Nicola Vitiello, Pastor	Rev. David Fugate (HR), Validated Ministry Chaplain, Springhill Senior Living
May 19	Cranesville, Bethel Mel Bendig (UMC), preaching	PCUSA World Mission Co-worker Rev. Josh Heikkila, Ghana
May 26	Titusville Rev. Vaughan Smith, Pastor	Rev. Bronwen Boswell, Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

# Church Family News...



## May Birthdays

- 4 Madeline Schrimper
- 6 Annie Stewart
- 9 James Thomas
- 13 Sue Beighley
- 16 Jared Mosier
- 25 Amanda Masiello
- 26 Betsy Roseto
- 31 Marge Suter



## Anniversaries

- 10 Bill & Tammy Stewart
- 22 Patty & Kevin Graff
- 23 Barry & Jane Wile
- 31 Brian & Barb Griffith

## 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.

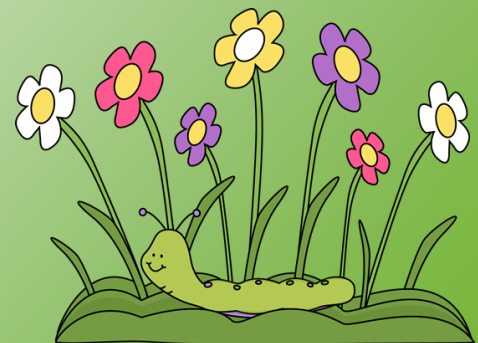
*If someone can be removed from the prayer list or if you have someone to add, please call or email the church office with the information.*

- |                 |                   |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Barb Bemis      | Morgan Johnson    | Cindy Skladanowski      |
| Claudia Brown   | Family of         | Sandy Spangler          |
| John Brown      | Rev. Tim Logan    | Rich Smith              |
| Margaret Crider | David Lyon        | Carl Steiner            |
| Robin Cuneo     | Matthew Mackowski | Family of Sandy Stewart |
| Dave English    | Dick May          | Marge Suter             |
| Fannin Family   | Mellish Family    | Tina Wasiela            |
| Joan Graham     | Yvonne Peters     | Abigail Wilkinson       |
| Judy Johnson    | Wilda 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<br>Twinbrook Room 212<br>3805 Field Street<br>Erie, PA 16511 | Jessie Dennison<br>Wellmore Unit 4129<br>580 Robert Daniel Drive<br>Daniel Island, SC 29492 | Jacque Foust<br>8467 East Lake Rd.<br>Erie, PA 16511             |
| Dick May<br>6568 Iroquois Avenue<br>Harborcreek, PA 16421                    | Peggy Nelson<br>2 Gibson St. Apt. 102<br>North East, PA 16428                               | Esther Noonan<br>7554 McGill Road<br>Harborcreek, PA 16421       |
| Yvonne Peters<br>3913 Dexter Avenue<br>Erie, PA 16504                        | Wilda Resinger<br>5456 East Lake Road<br>Barnabas Court South<br>Room 120                   | Sandy Spangler<br>227 W. 22nd Street<br>Room 9<br>Erie, PA 16509 |
| Carl Steiner<br>c/o Heather Steiner<br>4847 Tamarlac Lane<br>Erie, PA 16505  |   |  |
| Ron Washe<br>4147 Bell Street<br>Erie, PA 16511                              |   |  |





# MAY 2024

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

<p><b>Every Sunday Morning:</b>            9:15 a.m. Breakfast            9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School and Adult Sunday School/Movie            11:00 a.m. In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</p>			1	2	3	4
<p><b>Elder of the Month: Don Duckett</b>            814-881-0097</p> <p><b>Deacon of the Month: Sally Wakeley</b>            814-397-4601</p>			<p>Preschool Students will be having lunch in Fellowship Hall for the morning classes and afternoon classes.</p>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Geranium Orders are due.</p> <p>Symphonic Singers            3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wine and the Word            6:00 p.m. via</p>						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>Mother's Day</p>  <p>Music Sunday            Birthday Sunday after Worship</p>	<p>Deacon's Meeting            2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Session Meeting            6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's AA            5:00 p.m.</p>			<p>Geranium Orders can be picked up between 12 and 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Preschool Graduation both in a.m. and p.m.</p>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
 <p>Pentecost</p> <p>Tureen Luncheon Following Worship (Swiss Steak)</p>	<p>Women's AA            5:00 p.m.</p>		<p><i>June-July Newsletter Information Due</i></p>			
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1
	<p><i>Church Office is closed</i></p> <p>Women's AA            5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Fourth Tuesday Gathering            11:30 a.m.</p> 			<p>Garage Sale Set Up            12-8 p.m.</p>	 <p>Annual Garage Sale            8:00 a.m.-            2:00 p.m.</p>



**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church**  
*of Harborcreek*

**GARAGE**  
**SALE**

**Treasures of all kinds!**

**Saturday, June 1**

**8:00 AM—2:00 PM**

Including Gift Auction...Lunch...Baked Goods Sale

Garage Sale items can be brought to the church

after Sunday, May 19 during office hours

(M-W-F 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)

Please place items in the northwest corner  
because we do have events in Fellowship Hall  
between May 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

We welcome useable household items, furniture, toys, books, etc.

Please NO clothing or shoes and large televisions.

***Set up for the Garage Sale*** is

Friday, May 26 from 12 Noon-8 p.m.

A lot of hands are needed to get items priced and arranged.

## 2024 Pentecost Offering

### “I Am Coming to You” (John 14:18)

Do you ever feel — just *off*? Lost, disconnected or maybe even ... a little defeated?

Truth be told, we all feel this way once in a while. Yet we do the best we can to live every day to its fullest, and always with the reality that God’s love, God’s grace, which is the very essence of God, will never leave us.

Many of us have seen studies or polls that seem to come out every day reporting that the church is dying, its influence waning, and that people would rather spend their weekend doing things other than worshipping God and serving together in the name of Jesus Christ. Yet I know that for many of us, one of the primary places we return to — week after week to regain a sense of connection or realignment with ourselves and the world — is right here. In Church.

Pentecost celebrates the renewal of the relationship between God and the community of faith. We know that God continually comes to us and that we will never be forgotten by the God whom we know is here with us in the person of Jesus Christ.

In a world that so desperately needs to hear that God is right here with us, coming to us, and calling us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, it is our call as a congregation and as believers to share this Good News with the world.



The Pentecost Offering helps us live this call. Through our giving we are able to tell the story of God, who is always there for us, coming to us. The Offering supports children at risk through the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* initiative and high schoolers attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which shows them the inescapable loving presence of God. It also enables young adults to share Christ’s light while living in solidarity with those on the margins of society and preparing themselves for a life of service through the Young Adult Volunteers program.

Our gifts, no matter how big or small, when combined with those from other congregations show the world the ways God comes to us every single day. So please give generously to the Pentecost Offering, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

**Let us pray ~**

*God of grace and glory, wing your flight right here. Come to us again like you did in the person of Jesus. Help us be transformational in our ministry, and may our gifts transform the world to be more like your reign of justice, love and peace. In Christ’s name we pray, **Amen.***