



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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August Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 7

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

Back in June I had the opportunity to address Harborcreek High School's Class of 2024 at their baccalaureate service. I based my remarks, generally, on Proverbs 1:1-9, 2:1-12 and 3:13-20. I think it might be meaningful to more than just high school graduates, so I thought I'd share it with you.



You don't have to be a Bible scholar or deep thinker to get the point of Proverbs. It's what we call conventional or practical wisdom. It's a well-organized and edited collection of good advice, the purpose of which is clearly stated: "to teach wisdom and discipline." Its intended audience is young men preparing for adult responsibility and its perspective is admittedly male-centered. And some of its assumptions about women are admittedly antiquated and with some dangerous over-generalizations. But I think in our contemporary culture, where gender roles and opportunities are less rigidly defined and enforced, it can profitably read by anyone.

Its writers emphasize timeless values such as honesty, diligence, trustworthiness, and self-control. There's an emphasis on personal integrity and truthfulness. There's good advice on attitudes toward money. It's written for people of privilege – what we might call the elite – and yet it counsels understanding, generosity and humility, rather than dominance, arrogance and disregard for those less fortunate.

It also counsels right relationship with God, from whom, according to the writers, true wisdom flows. And it tells us what we get from wisdom: we'll understand righteousness, justice and integrity. We'll be rescued from evil paths and even filled with happiness and delight. And we are reminded that wisdom is more valuable than silver or gold.

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So here's what I might suggest to you graduates who have honored us by participating in this service. First – and perhaps most obviously – read Proverbs. If nothing else, you'll discover some fun and colorful sayings like: "Like a dog that returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats foolish mistakes."

But I hope that you will at least hear and remember some of the good advice it offers, at least in retrospect. Because you'll also find counsel like: "Wine is a mocker; beer a carouser. Those it leads astray won't become wise." That's as obvious as a country song. But I'm pretty sure some of you are going to be just like young people throughout history – including me – and test it out just make sure.

In many ways you can read Proverbs as one generation saying to the next, "Don't make my mistakes." That's kind of where I am. My stepson was 16 when his mother and I married and his father was still in the picture. So I did what I could and today we have a really good relationship. He actually seeks out my advice. And now we've got a couple grandchildren who I can start fresh with. I will do my very best teach them well and model for them those timeless values and attitudes and behaviors that Proverbs advises. And I will do my very best to love them and understand them when they inevitably test that advice; when they do exactly what children and young people are designed to do and try to see for themselves whether or not that advice is still valid and true.

So while I might suggest that you save yourselves some heartache by listening to the good advice of people – like the writers of Proverbs – who have been there and done that. I also understand that you are going to do what you are designed to do. You are going to go out and see what works and what doesn't. You are going to make mistakes that have been made for millennia and imagine that you are the first ones to make them.

I guess, then, that the best thing I can leave you with – and I'm speaking now as a person of faith, a Christian – is to know that you are loved. Loved by the very heart of the universe who knows and understands that you will make your choices – good and bad – and will never abandon you. That you may choose to set aside the graceful wreath of teaching and instruction that is offered as a gift of God and still God will never withhold from you God's love.

So if there's anything I hope you will receive uncritically and wholeheartedly from me – from us – it's that deep and unassailable truth. You are loved.

Grace and peace,



Proverbs 2:1-2 My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding...



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 **We are not collecting canceled stamps anymore.** The charity that we were sending them to has stopped accepting them. We have researched and have not found anyone else that will accept them

♥ 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.

Worship News...



<u>August 4</u>	Brian Griffith and Bill Nesgoda vocal duet
<u>August 11</u>	Brian Hunt (Others might be sing with him)
<u>August 18</u>	Misery Bay Dulcimers
<u>August 25</u>	Peg Poniatowski - flute
<u>September 1</u>	Sondra Marshall, vocal

August Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., Aug. 4	Jasmine Mosier	Gil & Marlene Long
Sun., Aug. 11	Gil Long	Cindy Skladanoski
Sun., Aug. 18	Scott Shunk	Pat Fedderson & Alisabeth Goetsch
Sun., Aug. 25	Nancy McNally	Bob & Sue Kellerman

Mark your Calendar



As per our cooperative worship plan, on **Sunday, September 8, 2024** worship hours will change to **9:15 a.m.** and every Sunday following until September 2025.



Nursery Keeper Needed

The church is looking for a nursery keeper every Sunday during 11:00 services to start ASAP. The keeper must be 18 years or older and must pass the mandatory PA background checks. The position pays \$20 if there are children and \$15 if there are no children each Sunday. Please contact any Deacon or Bill Nesgoda at 814-602-6504 if interested. Thank you!

The paperwork for clearances is available in the church office. The secretary is available to help you fill those out.



Lectionary Readings August 2024

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for these months.

Sunday, August 4	11th Sunday after Pentecost <i>2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12</i> <i>or Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29</i> <i>Ephesians 4:1-16</i> <i>John 6:24-35</i>
Sunday, August 11	12th Sunday after Pentecost <i>2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130</i> <i>or 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8</i> <i>Ephesians 4:25-5:2</i> <i>John 6:35, 41-51</i>
Sunday, August 18	13th Sunday after Pentecost <i>1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111</i> <i>Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14</i> <i>Ephesians 5:15-20</i> <i>John 6:51-58</i>
Sunday, August 25	14th Sunday after Pentecost <i>1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84</i> <i>Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22</i> <i>Ephesians 6:10-20</i> <i>John 6:56-69</i>

Mission News



MISSION COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time an/or donated to the lunch served at the Upper Room on June 30th. Because of your generosity and kindness, approximately 35 homeless men and women enjoyed a delicious picnic style meal. Special thanks to Smith Provisions who donated the hot dogs. We are scheduled to serve the less fortunate folks of the Upper Room on September 29th. Please watch for the sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. There seemed to be more social time with the folks of the Upper room—they had a need to chat more than usual. Thank you Pastor Mike and Mary Louise for inspirational comments and being good listeners to the folks.. It was mentioned to me by a first time volunteer after the lunch that even on a very hot day everyone was wearing a jacket of some kind. The volunteer then realized and was saddened by the fact that those attending the luncheon did not have a home where to hang their jackets!!!!



A special thank you to those who so generously supported giving to the Elmwood Gardens Auxiliary during the annual campaign. Because of your generous giving the residents of Elmwood Gardens are able to enjoy social gatherings for birthdays, holidays and other events. There are so many smiles and laughter at these evens that it warms my heart knowing it's all because of folks like you who support these folks many of whom do not have family to care for them. Please see Sue Kellerman to learn more about becoming a volunteer member of the Auxiliary Committee—it's a very rewarding experience.

The Mission Committee continues to collect personal hygiene products for the Upper Room and greeting cards to be sent to St Jude's Ranch. Postage stamps are no longer being collected. Keep those aluminum cans coming to support the Dick Smith project. Much support has been given to people in need within our community and church using the money collected from the recycled cans and not a penny out of our pockets to do so.

Blessings,
Sue Kellerman
Mission Committee Member

Ella Cochran Food Pantry Back-to-School

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is once again collecting basic school supplies for our August 21 distribution.

Some suggested items:

spiral notebooks	pocket folders
Pencils	colored pencils
Pens	highlighters
loose-leaf notebook paper	

Please no crayons, we have a stock pile of them.

There is a box at the back of the sanctuary for your donations.

They are much appreciated.

Up Coming Events

The Membership, Care and Development committee is having a busy summer! June 25th we hosted Kairos Prison Ministry speaker Bob Burnett who spoke about the services provided by the Kairos organization (and provided some good music too!).

July 9th we hosted the Gem City Concert Band in our parking lot (much thanks to our parking attendants). July 14th was the monthly birthday Sunday for our July "babies". July 24th we attended the Seawolves baseball afternoon game as our "4th Tuesday" activity.

Upcoming activities include the August birthday Sunday (8/11) and a 4th Tuesday event as yet to be determined. We are looking at a possible Victorian Princess cruise. Watch your bulletin for details.

Other items for your activity calendar - Emmanuel Church Waldameer Day August 10, Emmanuel outdoor courtyard concert/picnic on August 17th and the second annual Talent Night at the Emmanuel Faith Cafe on October 12th.



We are considering starting a fall dart league (magnetic darts only!). If that may be of interest please let a committee member know.

Other than that...not much going on....LOL
Your M, C and D committee



Emmanuel's Annual Waldameer Picnic Day

Saturday, August 10

Sign in from noon til 1:00

Picnic lunch @ 1-2:30

Cost \$19 for lunch buffet
\$33 for combo lunch/ride-arama and water park (savings of \$19)

Contact Brian Griffith at 814-459-8311 before August 4 if you want to attend this fun event.

Outdoor Summer Concert and Picnic



Saturday, August 17, 2024
4:30 p.m. till 8:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church—
Faith Café
3520 Perry Street, Erie, PA

Featuring:

- Angelo Phillips and Friends
- ReCharge
- Harmonizers
- Vessels Collective

Picnic food and beverages available 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please bring lawn chairs.

Questions: Call Keith at 814.873.5027 or Pam at Emmanuel 814.456.7811 (Tue. to Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)



PROPOSED LOUNGE UPDATE PROJECT



The 2024 budget allocated some, but not certainly not enough money to renovate the room in the church basement known as the” lounge”. Recently a small team of Bill Stewart, Scott Shunk, Dave Beighley, Jerry Cass, and Bob Kellerman have met to assess what renovating that space might entail.

So what is a “lounge” room intended to be??

A lounge area is generally intended to be a comfortable space that is used for relaxing, entertaining guests, socializing, and leisure. An enjoyable setting where people can meet and interact.

I am not sure when you last took a close look at this room. We suggest you take a few minutes and go look the room over. In its’ current condition, our “lounge” is not an area that can be used as a lounge is intended to be used. Here’s what we think needs to be done.

The extensive electrical / lighting upgrades done over the past few years added two new large electrical panels to the north wall and lots of wires and conduit on the ceiling. As a result, the installation of a suspended drop ceiling to enable future access certainly must be one of the renovation efforts.

It is evident when you are in the lounge that some of the space is being used as a store room, basically because there is not adequate “out of sight” storage areas. To address this, one of the first things we all saw was the need to create what we call a “storage closet area” with shelving for storing items used by various committees. The most likely spot for this closet area would seem to be on the east wall – that will also require the existing baseboard heat run on that wall to be moved to the wall adjacent to kitchen.

The carpet is old, stained and needs to be replaced – there appears to be hardwood floors underneath the carpet that might be able to be re-finished, as was done in the dining room several years ago. We all know how nice that floor looks. The team recommends that we should remove the carpet ASAP so we can determine if there are any areas where mold is evident and/or any flooring that might need to be replaced.

It is also recommended that drywall/plaster be removed from the existing walls and new dry wall hung and finished before painting. We would also plan to block off existing “pass thru” window from kitchen as well.

If/when it is all done, we would invite some of the ladies of the church to perhaps take the lead in decorating and furnishing the lounge.

Note - We would need to find storage area for everything in the room today during any renovation.

Recently the church received a generous Capital Improvement gift that can be used towards a lounge update project. Even with this unexpected gift, the project will require that we utilize our in house talent to do as much of the work as possible. Work that requires a professional will be done by a professional.

Volunteer labor – both skilled and unskilled will be a key to making this project economically feasible.

In conclusion, if our current lounge area were updated as described above, we would end up with a very nice lounge room available for use as intended. It was also suggested that a renovated lounge might be named “The Logan Lounge” in memory of beloved Pastor Emeritus Tim Logan.

Your feedback is invited. Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts. Thank you.

Building and Grounds Committee

Church Family News...



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
- 20 Yvonne Peters
- 22 Judy Johnson
- 23 Scott Shunk
Jessica (Erickson)
- 23 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
- 18 Jim & Sue Butler
- 22 Jim & Barb Bemis
- 23 Larry & Sue Resinger



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.

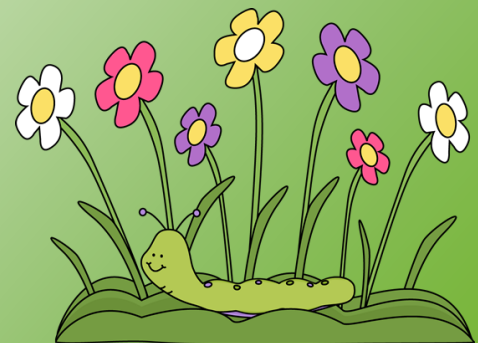
If someone can be removed from the prayer list or if you have someone to add, please call or email the church office with the information.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Barb Bemis | Judy Johnson | Bob Schrimper |
| Claudia Brown | Morgan Johnson | Cindy Skladanowski |
| John Brown | David Lyon | Sandy Spangler |
| Margaret Crider | Matthew Mackowski | Rich Smith |
| Robin Cuneo | Dick May | Carl Steiner |
| Dave English | Mellish Family | Marge Suter |
| Fannin Famin | Yvonne Peters | Tina Wasiela |
| Joan Graham | Wilda Resinger | 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
41 W. Gore Rd. Rm.113
Erie, PA. 16509 | Wilda Resinger
5456 East Lake Road
Barnabas Court South
Room 120 | Sandy Spangler
227 W. 22nd Street
Room 9
Erie, PA 16509 |
| Carl Steiner
c/o Heather Steiner
4847 Tamarlac Lane
Erie, PA 16505 | | |
| Ron Washe
4147 Bell Street
Erie, PA 16511 | | |



May your blessings be as countless as grains of sand.



August 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3		
Elder of the Month: Scott Shunk 814-453-3803		Deacon of the Month: Sally Wakeley 814-397-4601						
<i>Pastor Mike on vacation from the afternoon of Sunday, July 28 through Sunday, August 4</i>								
4	11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Ken and Cindy Hall Leading Worship	5	Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	6		10	Emmanuel's Annual Waldameer Picnic (please see article on page 2 for more info)	
11	11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday Sunday! following worship	12	Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	13		16	17	Outdoor Concert and picnic at Emmanuel
18	11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 	19	Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	20		23	24	
25	11:00 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship 	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						