



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd.
Harborcreek, PA 16421
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Website: hcpresbyterian.org

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

October Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 9

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



The Bible abounds with agricultural metaphors. Images of sowing and planting, reaping and harvesting, and references to grain, grapes, figs and olives are common. There's also a lot about sheep and goats, shepherding, and fish and fishing. God's word, the kingdom of heaven, the gifts of the Spirit, Jesus's resurrection and more are all described using comparisons to gardening, farming and livestock tending.

Of course, that makes perfect sense. In Bible times the majority of the population was involved in food production and even city dwellers were not very far removed from the source of their food. And their food was not very far removed from them. Without refrigeration or fast-moving transportation, people ate what could be produced nearby and brought to them before it could spoil. Preservation might involve drying and salting, or turning milk, grapes and olives into cheese, wine and oil. Grain was a precious commodity because it could be stored for longer periods. Meat was eaten sparingly and often as part of a celebration (remember the Prodigal Son's father's fatted calf?) because once slaughtered, the whole animal had to be consumed.

I'm not sure a contemporary Jesus would make his points using farming stories. According to the USDA, direct, on-farm jobs account for only about 1.2% of total employment. Five times as many people – 6% – work in food services (restaurants and eating and drinking places). There are more people working in supermarkets than on farms. Most Americans are pretty unaware of where our food really comes from. And a close look at the labels at the grocery store makes it clear that a lot of what we eat is from very far away. For instance, much of the produce we eat, especially in winter, comes from Mexico, Central and South America.

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Aside from the very local produce we are lucky enough to enjoy from road-side stands here in the Erie region, most of what we eat does not have a season. There are always grapes and apples and strawberries, salmon and steaks year-round and with surprisingly little fluctuation in price month-to-month. We've lost the urgency and celebration of the harvest. Judaism has three harvest festivals that in ancient times were directly connected to various crops. Passover in the Spring is connected to the barley harvest; 49 days later the wheat harvest is celebrated with Shavuot; and in the fall, Sukkot marks the conclusion of the fruit harvest. And the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens."

Autumn, though, has lost some of the resonance it once had as a time to celebrate the ripening of fruit and grain, and the maturing of cattle. Perhaps this year we might slow down a little and appreciate the near-miraculous bounty and variety we enjoy at any supermarket. And also appreciate the earth that has yielded it up, the hands that tended the crops and livestock, the workers who toil picking the vegetables and slaughtering the animals, and even the scientists whose brilliance has increased yields and shelf-life. Maybe our Thanksgiving celebrations could skip the "what are you grateful for this year?" ritual and review the food chain that got the turkey and cranberries to the table. What if we looked at the label on every ingredient from the potatoes (sweet and Russet), to the turkey, to the nutmeg in the pumpkin pie, and then read the list of states and countries that it all came from? (Head start: nutmeg is from Indonesia, Malaysia or the Caribbean).

I wonder if we thought more deeply about where our food comes from and who provided us with it, we might feel more connected, connected to each other and to God, the source of everything.

There's a wonderful hymn that speaks to the thoughtful gratitude we might express. "For the Fruit of All Creation" declares, *For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

May we be thankful for – and keep safe – the earth entrusted to our care and that yields such bounty.

Grace and peace,

Mike



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

Worship News...



World Communion Sunday October 6, 2024

World Communion Sunday is a **celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October**, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the eucharist or Lord's Supper.

We are blessed to have our General Presbyterian, **The Rev. Anita Bernhardt** who will lead us in worship and the Lord's Supper as we celebrate our connection with Christians around the world.



All Saints Sunday and Memorial Sunday

We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday and Memorial Sunday on October 27, 2024. Please have all memorial information to the church office no later than Sunday, October 20. Please try to attend church on October 27 to present your rose in memory of your loved one.

See the attached flyer.



September Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., Oct. 6	Nancy Way	Nancy McNally
Sun., Oct. 13	Kyle Foust	Bob & Linda DeAngelo
Sun., Oct. 20	Bill Nesgoda	Jack and Jill Mosier
Sun., Oct. 27	Dave Wedzik	Tiffany & Cliff Kephart

Lectionary Readings October 2024

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

Sunday, October 6

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

20th Sunday after Pentecost

and Psalm 26 or
and Psalm 8
Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, October 13

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Hebrews 4:16-16

21st Sunday after Pentecost

and Psalm 22:1-15 or
and Psalm 90:12-17
Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, October 20

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Isaiah 53:4-12
Hebrews 5:1-10

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c or
and Psalm 91:9-16
Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, October 27

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews 7:23-28

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22) or
and Psalm 126
Mark 10:46-52



**SOWING THE SEEDS
OF PEACE.**

ZECHARIAH 8:12



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Preschool News

Hello, everyone!

The new school year has begun and our Preschool has gotten off to a wonderful start! I am very glad to welcome back my terrific staff, who are all dedicated and hard-working individuals. I feel very blessed to have them back “on board” again this year!

Our preschoolers are doing very well! The returning children have jumped right back in and the new children are definitely becoming comfortable with our routines. Even the Bears (the youngest group) are getting used to “lining up” and are having fun moving from one room to the next. The children are singing, playing, exploring, moving, learning and enjoying!

During these initial weeks of school, we talk about making friends, sharing, cooperating, listening to the teachers, staying in line, etc.– all those things that are needed to acclimate them to a Preschool setting. This is done *prior* to introducing the alphabet letters, which occurred toward the end of September.

A total of 125 preschoolers, parents and grandparents traveled to Waterford at the end of September to attend our Port Farm’s “Family Fun” Event. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed all of the many and varied activities. Every time we visit, there is more to see and do at the farm! It is an AWESOME place!!!!

Then in October the preschool families visited Burch Farms for a wonderful and educational field trip. We toured the farm, were shown how their apple trees grow on wires, saw how BIG their refrigerated cooler is (big enough that we could all walk inside it!), were able to pick some apples off the trees, and saw how the apples get to “take a shower” before being put into the crates. Each session ended with delicious cookies and apple cider for everyone!

October was a very busy month at Preschool! We started to learn and/or review our alphabet letters, letter sounds, shapes, numbers, Kindergarten sight words, etc. We have been hard at work practicing our songs and poems for fall and Halloween, while also learning about autumn, pumpkins, scarecrows, leaves and other seasonal concepts. All the children enjoyed painting their white pumpkins and each one was a masterpiece!

It is wonderful to see our classrooms filled with energy, enthusiasm, smiling faces, and caring hearts! There is nowhere else that we would rather be! Until next time . . . take care and may God bless you and yours!

“Happy Fall,”

Everyone!



Join Us for *Harvest-Fest 2024!*



WHEN: October 13 (Sunday) @ 12:15pm
(until approximately 2:30pm)

WHERE: Belle Valley Presbyterian Church
1694 Norcross Road (near Rt. 8 & Norcross)

WHAT: lunch, games, children's costume judging & prizes,
treat bags for all kids, The Balloon Lady, a hayride,
and a special visit from our friends at the BVFD!
Call Kim @ 814-392-5831 for more info!

**Please bring your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and
extended family!! IT'S FREE!**

Study and Fellowship Opportunities



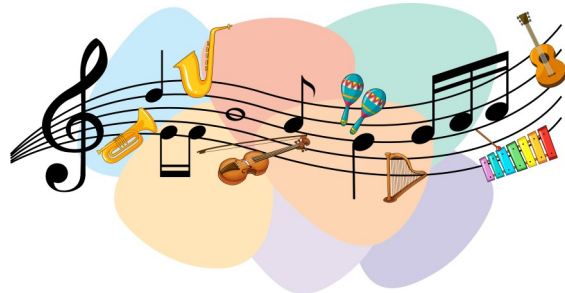
Join us after church on Sunday October 6th for Soul Sunday. We will be watching Disney movie "Soul". The movie has something for everyone. Dusten Crowe of Gospel Coalition says it will remind us that: "some of life's greatest joys aren't the big things we dream about but the little blessings—even the struggles and challenges—we encounter in everyday life. There is joy in the ordinary and meaning in the here-and-now... Wherever God has us, we can find purpose—and this purpose doesn't depend on our passions."

Hotdogs and snacks will be served at intermission!

4th Tuesday Gathering

October 22, 2024

will feature Scott Mitchell...The Zoo Guy!! Please plan to attend and let the office know of your intention to do so. We want to give Scott a REALLY BIG warm welcome to our church and a BIG turnout would be so great!

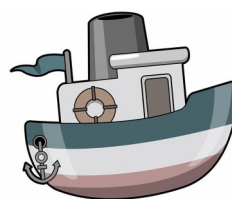
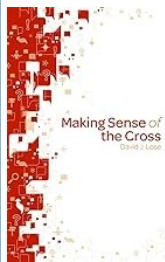


October 12th at Emmanuel's Faith Cafe will be the setting for the 2nd annual Music Night

The fun starts at 7:00 and will include music from our Harborcreek choir along with the Emmanuel choir, The Harmonizers, Jasmine and Friends and a special appearance by Hank Williams Sr.!

WINE AND THE WORD

The bi-weekly Zoom meeting of Wine and the Word began on September 15th and will continue every other Sunday unless otherwise announced. We are reading and discussing Making Sense of the Cross, a VERY readable and understandable book about the life of our Lord. Please consider joining us via Zoom. All are welcome to jump right in the deep end (which is very shallow!). You are invited on October 13th and 27th before we hit November. Please join us. Please contact Pastor Mike for the Zoom link and book.



The Membership, Care and Development committee continues to chug along.

The August edition of 4th Tuesday was held on Sunday the 18th as nearly 40 people from HPC and Emmanuel took a cruise on the Victorian Princess. Pastor Mike and MaryLouise, along with many of the attendees, had never viewed the city from the water and it was a beautiful day with great company and time for fellowship.

We celebrated birthday Sunday on September 8th. A good time was had by all.

September's 4th Tuesday event was cancelled due to a death in the family of a Harborcreek member.



Birthday Sunday for October birthdays will be October 13th following worship. Please plan to join your fellow members for some delicious dessert and coffee.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Sunday October 27, 2024

Presented by _____

Phone Number _____

In memory of _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Death _____

Please return to the church office or place in red basket at the back of the sanctuary by Sunday, October 20, 2024



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

♥ **Cancelled Stamps** The Mission Committee is again saving cancelled postage stamps for a great cause. Please place your **cancelled stamps** in the box provided at the back of the sanctuary and they will be given to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Erie for processing. The stamps will be trimmed and sent to an organization who sells them to buy bibles in other languages.

♥ **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.

Church Family News...



October Birthdays

- 7 Oliver Palmer
- 8 Ed Ellwood
- 13 Madison Williams
- 16 Bill Stewart
- 18 Pat Facchine
- 22 Norah Woodward
- 19 Jane Wile
- 23 Debi Lyon
- 27 Mary C. Stewart
- 28 Jordan Lee Erickson
- 28 Marnie Logan
- 30 Rachel Lemke
- 30 Jasmine Mosier

October Anniversaries

- 9 Ron & Mary Ellen Flowers
- 11 Bill & Donna Fannin
- 19 Jared & Aye Mosier



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 | Joan Graham | Sandy Spangler |
| Claudia Brown | Judy Johnson | Rich Smith |
| John Brown | Morgan Johnson | Carl Steiner |
| Margaret Crider | David Lyon | Marge Suter |
| Robin Cuneo | Dick May | Tina Wasiela |
| Dave English | Mellish Family | Abigail Wilkinson |
| Fannin Family | Yvonne Peters | Zanita Zacks-Gabriel |
| Pat Feddersen | 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
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
Erie, PA 16511 | 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 | | |





***First Presbyterian Church
6724 Buffalo Rd., Harborcreek, PA
814-899-1031***

**STEAK
DINNER**
Fall Swiss

Saturday, November 2, 2024

4:30—6:30 p.m.

Adults \$14.00

Same great meal, but take out style.

Drive Thru Take Out Only

***Enter thru west entrance
to the parking lot
and you will be directed
where to proceed.***





October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<i>Pastor Mike on vacation September 29 through October 6th</i>						
			Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.			
6 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship "Soul Sunday" Movie and Lunch following Worship	7 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	8	9  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Music Night at Emmanuel's Faith Café 7:00 p.m. 
13 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday Sunday Celebration following worship Wine and the Word via Zoom 6:00 p.m.	14 DEACONS Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m.  Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	15	16  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	17	18	19
20 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship	21 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	22	23  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26
27 All Saints and Memorial Sunday 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship Wine and the Word via Zoom 6:00 p.m.	28 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	29	30  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	31	Elder of the Month: Brian Griffith 814-459-8311 Deacon of the Month: Sue Beighley 814-460-1232	



Fall Spender

L W J C O L O R F U L M U M S W X G D C Z L Q Y
 R Y U S Y G T B U S D W S L Y Q H P N W L C A J
 H C I L P D M T S M A Q A P P L E S G A L O R E
 Y S C Z Y G H G D O P C J R S D N F W D Z J T L
 S J Y C S W A H K C O F G W L F Z B R E R U S C
 K D G O W R W T P B B O W L A I O H L U C G C F
 P R R Z B U O Q H R T M O C B I W U C H N B O O
 L X A U V S Y T B E O B L M G A Y T A F P F O C
 E N P Q O U A W I R R C L T J R O T E D D B L H
 N H E S G G Z Z E S H I G O X C T X X C R U B I
 T P S H T R Y K S N I K N Y O I W Y C I I K R L
 I W N J B H S N O E F V R G N F O C L J C A I D
 F S Z F Y K G I N U V D D G S H H L H W V I S R
 U S Z B Y I L I A U H A C E H Q I Q A A W P K E
 L P N K U M Q P N J F H E L M A U A Z O I E W N
 H B Q R O C N Q H K I U M L N U R I P H N B A P
 A K B E O C S C R P S H M T E O T P R F K Z L L
 R X O O D C P B M A W I S J S G Z S E R Z N K A
 V T F Z G I A U M F U U R X F M N Y O W E F S Y
 E K C J T E N A P A N N V B C N Z A O C O L L I
 S F R X T K K E V S Y D H B T F G O R C J D S N
 T N B C S B O Y E R D O C G R C R A T O V F Z G
 V M Y A D G T T U O S F V D J W I J I Y H Z N M
 B L B T C J S S S M I L I N G P U M P K I N S Z

costumed visitors	chatting chipmunks	smiling pumpkins
brilliant sunsets	colorful mums	brisk nights
gathering squirrels	acorns	apples galore
funny gourds	cool brisk walks	juicy grapes
children playing	plentiful harvest	orange leaves

