



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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February/March Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 2

Church Leadership

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

Committee Chairs—2025

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

Deacons

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



First Presbyterian Church of
Harborcreek



“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah.” We all know the hymn, but where did the name or word

Jehovah come from? The short answer is: it’s a mistake. For the longer answer we have to start with Biblical Hebrew.

I’m sure you’ve heard that, in Hebrew, God’s name is Yahweh, which means “I am,” and is pronounced *ya-way*. And that’s a pretty good guess, but it’s only a guess because Hebrew is a consonantal language; it has no vowels. In Hebrew it is: יהוה, reading right to left – because that’s how Hebrew goes – the letters are *yod, he, waw, he*. If we render that in English it would be YHWH and you can easily see that if we tuck a couple vowels in there, we get Yahweh.

And here you might ask “how does anyone know how to pronounce Biblical Hebrew if there are no vowels?” For that you can thank the Masoretes. The Masoretes were groups of Jewish scribes and scholars who worked from the 5th through 10th centuries CE and who devised a system of dots and dashes that are printed above and below the Hebrew text to indicate the vowel sounds they thought should be used in pronunciation. For instance, in the original Hebrew the first verse of Psalm 23 is: – יהוה רעי לא אחסר no vowels. In the Masoretic text it is: – יהוה רעי לא אחסר with vowel points. (It’s four words that translate “Yahweh, being the shepherd of me, not shall I lack”).

And here’s where it get interesting – and tricky. Observant Jews do not say the divine name out loud, so when reading aloud in Hebrew they use the placeholder name Adonai, (אֲדֹנָי) which means “my Lord” for Yahweh. And to help them remember to say “Adonai” instead of “Yahweh,” the Masoretes put the vowel points for Adonai around the consonants for Yahweh. And if you didn’t know this and tried to pronounce it, instead of *ya-way* you would end up with something like *ya-ho-wa*.



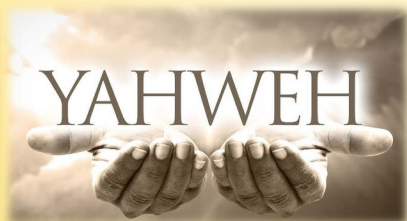
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So you can see – or hear – that we’re getting closer to Jehovah. To arrive, it’s important to know that when transliterating Hebrew, that is writing Hebrew words using English letters and pronunciation rules, the “Y” sound in Hebrew is often represented by a “J” in English due to how the sound evolved in different languages over time. The same is true for the “w” sound in Hebrew being represented by an English “v.” So if we make those substitutions, you go from *ya-ho-wa* to *ja-ho-va*. And because some early translators didn’t know the Adonai-instead-of-Yahweh rule, they translated the divine name as Jehovah.

So Jehovah as a name for God is actually the result of an erroneous reading and rendering of vowel-pointed Hebrew. Yet we continue to use it because it has become so much a part of our common religious language. It’s so embedded in our hymns, liturgies and prayers that we’d be in error if we tried to remove it. It has taken on its own sacredness.

Christianity didn’t retain the Jewish prohibition against saying the divine name out loud but we respect it in translations of the Hebrew Bible, our Old Testament, by using “the LORD” in place of YHWH. So when you see “The LORD is my shepherd...” you’ll know that it could be read “Yahweh is my shepherd...” or, following Jewish custom, “Adonai is my shepherd...” Or even “HaShem is my shepherd...” using another Jewish placeholder, (אֲשֶׁר) which means simply “the name.”



Of course, the important thing is to read the Bible! And I hope the next time you read the Old Testament and you see “the LORD,” you’ll pause and think about everything that’s going on with those four letters!

Grace and Peace,



Lectionary Readings February and March 2025

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for February and March.

Sunday, February 2 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 *Psalm 71:1-6*
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *Luke 4:21-30*

Sunday, February 9 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) *Psalm 138*
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *Luke 5:1-11*

Sunday, February 16 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 *Psalm 1*
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 *Luke 6:17-26*

Sunday, February 23 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 *Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40*
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 *Luke 6:27-38*

Sunday, March 2 Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35 *Psalm 99*
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 *John 9:28-36, (37-43a)*

Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *or Isaiah 58:1-12*
Psalm 51:1-17 *2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 9 1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16*
Romans 10:8b-13 *Luke 4:1-13*

Sunday, March 16 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 *Psalm 27*
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35 *or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)*

Sunday, March 23 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-19 *Psalm 63:1-8*
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 *Luke 13:1-9*

Sunday, March 30 4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 *Psalm 32*
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

Worship News...



*Ash
Wednesday*

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

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February 2025 Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sun., Feb. 2	Gil Long	Jim & Izzy Lyon
Sun., Feb. 9	Brian Griffith	Barker Family
Sun., Feb. 16	Nancy McNally	Jack & Joy Mosier
Sun., Feb. 23	Bill Nesgoda	Bob & Linda DeAngelo

See church bulletin for March liturgists and greeters.



Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

At the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Excerpts from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Website "The Season of Lent"

Spiritual Formation and Fellowship...

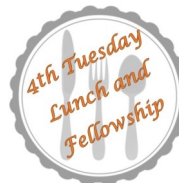
Wine the Word



Wine and the Word continues on February 23th at 6:00 via Zoom and continues every other Sunday evening. We will continue our study of 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!). Please contact Pastor Mike for the Zoom link and book.

All are welcome to attend.

Membership, Care and Development Committee



The January "4th Tuesday" luncheon was held on January 21st with Jeff Kisak as our guest speaker, Jeff presented a VERY interesting and informative talk on "falconry", the practice of keeping and training hunting birds. The crowd of 32 people learned that in most species of hunters the female is the larger of the pair, along with many other amazing facts.

Watch the weekly bulletin for information on future luncheons.

Birthday Sundays will continue on February 9, March 9, April 13 (Palm Sunday) and May 11 (Mother's Day) and the 2nd Sunday of each month going forward.



Brunch and a Movie continues each Sunday (except for birthday Sunday). Please join us for this great learning and fellowship opportunity.



Per Capita

Per Capita is an annual assessment that each PCUSA congregation is asked to pay based its number of active members and is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 8,700 congregations, 166 presbyteries, 16 synods and the General Assembly connect, participate and share in the world of the wider church.

The 2025 per capita has had a slight increase to \$35.00 per member. It is the responsibility of each church in a presbytery to pay its full per capita assessment, whether or not individual members pay their per capita by the end of March, in addition to their regular pledge and offering. So we are encouraging you to do so. By paying your per capita, you free up money that can be spent on maintaining the building,

Inspirational Quotes about love...

All shall be well, all shall be well...for there is a Force of Love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go." - *Julian of Norwich*

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." - *Martin Luther King*

"The love that flows through your heart purifies not only your own spirit, but the love you share with others."
- *Caroline Myss*

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." - *Lao Tzu*

"Charity, a word that comprises love and justice, may well be the most sublime of all Christian virtues." - *Diana Butler Bass*

Youth Events...

Attention all Youth!!!!

Lots of fun stuff coming up!!! Check out some of below! Contact Jennifer Wedzik for more info.

1. Erie Youth Presbytery Dodge Ball event-Sunday, March 16th at Emmanuel Presbyterian Gym. Need to register
2. Spring Youth Presbytery retreat for 6th-12th graders will be held April 25-27 at Camp Mission Meadows on Lake Chautauqua. Along with our retreat programming, there are climbing walls, an indoor pool, and a low-ropes course. Need to register.
3. Middle School Youth Retreat at Montreat. Middle School Conference July 15 - 20 at Maryville College - theme- Wonder Full”
4. Youth Triennium this summer!!!! -
Who: Rising 9th -graduating 12th graders. When: July 26-31, 2025 Where: Louisville, KY Theme: “As If We Were Dreaming.” Our faith challenges us to dream; to pay attention to the dreams that the Spirit implants in our hearts and minds. See more information on the bulletin board and the back of the sanctuary and take a copy with you.
Pick the event right for you, and bring a friend!

“God’s love is...”

God’s love is gentle. Matthew 11:28-29

God’s love is faithful and merciful.
Lamentations 3:22-23

God’s love is compassionate.
Psalm 86.15

God’s love is unfathomable.
Ephesians 3:18-19

God’s love is forgiving and full of grace. Nehemiah 9:17

God’s love is always with us, even in our pain and suffering.
Isaiah 43:2-3a

God’s love is eternal. Isaiah 54:10

God’s love is protective. Psalm 5:11-12

God’s love is sacrificial. 1 John 4:9-10

We cannot be separated from God’s love. Romans 8:38-39



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...



Prayer List:

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	David Lyon	Sandy Spangler
Claudia Brown	Pat Feddersen	Dick May	Carl Steiner
Joan Graham	Mary Ellen Flowers	Mellish Family	Marge Suter
John Brown	Ron Flowers	Yvonne Peters	Tina Wasiela
Margaret Crider	Sue Haynes	Wilda Resinger	Zanita Zacks-Gabriel
Robin Cuneo	Morgan Johnson	Rich Smith	



February Birthdays

- 5 James Watson
- 7 Sue Resinger
- 17 Chris Mosier
- 18 John Brown
- 23 Carol Mulvin
- 28 James Stewart
- 28 Jeremy Stewart
- 28 Ava Joy Connors

Anniversaries

- 22 Bob & Linda DeAngelo

March Birthdays

- 1 Aye Mosier
- 2 Carrie Woodard
- 2 Mary Skladanowski
- 4 Bill Nesgoda
- 4 Becky Johnson
- 6 Ron Flowers
- 10 Ann Nesgoda
- 13 Jacque Foust
- 16 Bonnie Duckett
- 18 Linda DeAngelo
- 20 John Erickson
- 22 Ron Washe
- 24 Dave Maille
- 28 Amy Erickson

Anniversaries

- 17 Don & Bonnie Duckett

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
C/O The Palms of Mount Pleasant
937 Bowman Road AL #146
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464



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

Carl Steiner
c/o Heather Steiner
4847 Tamarlac Lane
Erie, PA 16505

Sandy Spangler
227 W. 22nd Street Room 9
Erie, PA 16509

Ron Washe
4147 Bell Street
Erie, PA 16511



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

Love



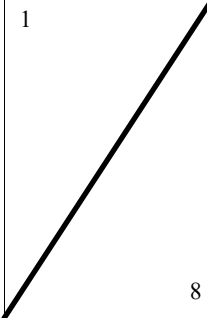





February 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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<p><i>And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.</i></p> <p><i>1 Corinthians 13:13</i></p>			<p>Elder of the Month Gil Long 814-440-9457</p> <p>Deacon of the Month Linda DeAngelo 814-746-7372</p>				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<p>9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship</p> <p>Brunch and a Movie following worship</p>	<p>Women's AA 5:00 p.m.</p>		 <p>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.</p>				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
<p>9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship</p> <p>Birthday Sunday following worship</p>	<p>DEACONS</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>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.</p>				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
<p>9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship</p> <p>Brunch and a Movie following worship</p>	<p>Women's AA 5:00 p.m.</p>		 <p>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.</p>				
23	24	25	26	27	28		
<p>9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship</p> <p>Brunch and a Movie following worship</p> <p>Wine and the Word 6:00 via Zoom</p>	<p>Women's AA 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>4th Tuesday Fellowship Watch for more details</p>	 <p>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.</p>				



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship	3 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	4	5 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.	6	7	1  8
9 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Birthday Sunday following worship Wine and the Word 6:00 via Zoom	10  Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m.  Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	11	12  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship	17 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	18	19  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship Wine and the Word 6:00 via Zoom	24 <i>April Newsletter Information due!!</i> Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	25	26  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	27	28	
29 9:15 a.m. In-Person & Live Stream Worship Brunch and a Movie following worship Wine and the Word 6:00 via Zoom	30 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	31		<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Elder of the Month Gil Long 814-440-9457</p> <p>Deacon of the Month Linda DeAngelo 814-746-7372</p> </div>		