



# First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd.  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Telephone: (814) 899-1031  
Email: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com  
Website: hcpresbyterian.org

## December Volume 2019, Issue 10

### Church Leadership

Pastor.....Robin Cuneo  
Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. Sheldon "Tim"  
Logan  
Music Director.....Chris Thomas  
Organist.....Joyce Kriner  
Secretary.....Mary Stewart  
Sexton & Librarian.....Eileen Kriner  
Treasurer.....Jim Watson

### Committee Chairs—2019

Clerk of Session.....Mary Ellen Flowers  
Christian Ed.....Jennifer Wedzik  
Membership Care &  
Development.....Barb Griffith  
Ann Nesgoda  
Mission/Outreach.....Ann Nesgoda  
Sue Kellerman, Jim Watson  
Nominating &  
Training.....Mary Ellen Flowers  
Jennifer Wedzik  
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman  
Scott Shunk  
Property.....Jared Mosier  
Bob Kellerman  
Stewardship & Finance.....Dave Maille  
Bob Kellerman, Jim Watson  
Worship.....Scott Shunk  
Chris Thomas  
Recording Secretary.....  
Cindy Skladanowski

### Deacons

Chairperson.....Nancy McNally  
Secretary.....Bill Nesgoda  
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith  
Flower Coordinator.....Sally Wakeley  
Caring Tree.....All Deacons  
Scheduling.....Nancy Brown  
Thanksgiving Baskets.....All Deacons  
Correspondence.....Aye Mosier  
Funeral Dinners.....Peggie Smith  
Aye Mosier



Greetings of Advent, Dear Ones,

Sometimes, I dread Christmas. There. I admitted it in print. The world wrapped up in lights is lovely, of course, and it's great to see people I haven't clapped eyes on since last year. But the rush of spending too much time trying to meet an impossible calendar and spending too much money on the commercial Christmas I seldom feel quite ready for....not so much.

Advent, on the other hand, ahhhh. I dearly love Advent – the slow, gentle, day-by-day and week-by-week reminders to stay awake, to pay attention, to leave room for unexpected encounters with Jesus that happen every day right in our midst. That, I love.

I recently found the following in some old files, and it seemed to be what I need to hear at this time of year. It's from Rachel Held Evans. Maybe it will do the same for you.

### 5 Questions to Ask Yourself...

1. When I wake up on Christmas morning, how will I be different? How do I hope the meditations and practices of the season will shape me?

2. How can I prepare myself, my home, and my family for the arrival of Jesus in a way that nurtures a spirit of anticipation and hope?

3. Have I left enough space in the busy holiday season to pay attention, to listen, to wait, and to be surprised? What practical steps can I take to both guard those quiet moments but also embrace divine interruptions?

4. Consider the effects of light. It can warm and it can guide, but it can also expose and surprise. What does light in the darkness mean for the world? What does it mean for my life in this season?



*Pastor's message continued next page...*

*...Pastor's message continued*

5. What does it mean to listen to the prophets in this season—not just the prophets of old, but the prophets of today? Who is crying out for justice and peace from the margins, and what will I do to heed their calls?

I remain so profoundly blessed and thankful for so many aspects of this wonderful place and its lovely, lovely people. Please accept my warmest, prayerful wishes for a holy and blessed Advent and Christmas.

*Pastor Robin*

*The Season of*  
**CHARITY**

### **GIFT OPTIONS THAT CAN RETURN BENEFITS TO YOU**

Your financial support is invaluable to us and we are grateful for EVERY gift we receive. We want giving to the First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek to be rewarding for you as well. There are financial tools you can use to plan your gift so that it can return benefits to you.

Some of these planned gifts are:

- appreciated stocks & mutual funds for tax and capital gains benefits
- make the church a beneficiary on a life insurance policy
- make a bequest in your will or estate plan
- if 70.5, making tax free gifts directly to the church from you IRA or similar plan

Our time here in this realm is finite, so what legacy do you have planned?

See Bob Kellerman or Jim Watson, the information on the table in the old entrance and consult with your tax and financial advisors.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



**Thank You to everyone who helped to make our fall Swiss Steak Dinner success.**

**We raised: \$3,501.92**

*Merry*  
**Christmas**



### **PRAYER CHAIN**

If you have a request for the prayer chain, please speak to any 2019 Deacon or Peggie Smith (814-899-9103) to activate the prayer chain. We care about confidentiality so please let us know what information you would like to share and what is confidential.

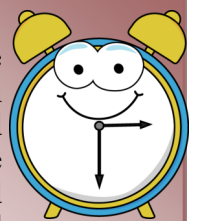
### ***OFFICE HOURS!***

The church secretary will be in the office from 9 a.m.—12 noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Pastor Robin will continue her hours 10-1 Monday and Wednesday. Please keep in mind since pastors serves on required Presbytery committees she might not always be available during the planned office hours.

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# Worship Schedules and Events



## Lectionary Readings for December

### Sunday, December 1

*Isaiah 2:1-5*  
*Romans 13:11-14*

1st Sunday of Advent  
*Psalm 122*  
*Matthew 24:36-44*

### Sunday, December 8

*Isaiah 11:1-10*  
*Romans 15:4-13*

2nd Sunday of Advent  
*Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*  
*Matthew 3:1-12*

### Sunday, December 15

*Isaiah 35:1-10*  
*Luke 1:46b-55*  
*Matthew 11:2-11*

3rd Sunday of Advent  
*Psalm 146:5-10 or*  
*James 5:7-10*

### Sunday, December 22

*Isaiah 7:10-16*  
*Romans 1:1-7*

4th Sunday of Advent  
*Luke 80:1-7, 17-19*  
*Matthew 1:18-25*

### Sunday, December 29

*Isaiah 63:7-9*  
*Hebrews 2:10-18*

1st Sunday after Christmas  
*Psalm 148*  
*Matthew 2:13-23*



## Liturgists and Greeters/Ushers for December

### December 1

Liturgist: Jim Stewart  
Greeters: Matt & Dena Barker

### December 8

Liturgist: Jeremy Stewart  
Greeters: Jeremy Stewart Family

### December 15

Liturgist: Chris Thomas  
Greeters: Linda Blum & Esther Noonan

### December 22

Liturgist: Matt Wedzik  
Greeters: Wedzik Family

### December 29

Liturgist: Brian Griffith  
Greeters: Joanne Scott & Cindy Skladanowski

## Reception of New Member

### Sunday, December 8



Join us as we  
welcome a new  
member:  
Diane Bourne!

## Sunday School Children's Nativity Play

### Sunday, December 15

Come and enjoy our the  
message of Jesus' birth as our  
Sunday school children  
present a nativity play!



## Choral Cantata

### Sunday, December 22

Come and be blessed by the  
choir's choral cantata:  
"Stars of Glory" inspired by  
a Celtic Christmas Carol.



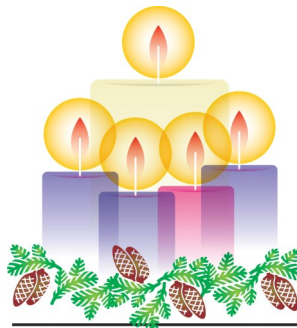
## Christmas Eve Worship

### Tuesday, December 24

7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Join us for a  
Christmas Eve  
Candle

Lighting Communion  
Worship Celebration as  
we welcome into our  
hearts our newborn  
Savior.



## Christmas Eve



# You are invited...



Please join us after church on December 8th as we welcome our newest member Diane Bourne with a sandwich luncheon. You are encouraged to share a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies at this special event.

Everyone is invited to stay afterwards for a fun time making crafts.



## Calling All Christmas Cookie Bakers

(AND those who love to  
EAT Christmas Cookies!!)

SUNDAY, December 8<sup>th</sup>

BRING a dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies to SHARE with your church family after our new member luncheon.

What a festive dessert this will be!

**See YOU there!**



## *"In God's Perfect Time"*

Advent Reflections and Concert with

### *Dan Schutte*

Dan has been composing music for worship for more than 30 years, including extensive collaborations with the St. Louis Jesuits. His more recent pieces exhibit an enduring ability to reach into people's hearts and draw them into prayer. He is one of the best-known, most prolific and influential composers of music for the liturgy today.



Composer of:  
"Here I Am, Lord", "City of God", "Sing A New Song",  
"These Alone are Enough", and many more...



**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 15, 2019  
AT 3:00 P.M.**

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH**  
837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421



## **It is here!**

The Harborcreek First Presbyterian Church photo directories will be passed out on Sunday, December 8. If you had your photo taken please see Barbara Griffith to receive your directory.

We thank God for all your smiling faces!

# Learning Opportunities...

## On Sunday Mornings...



### Breakfast and a Movie

9:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST** in the Fellowship Hall

9:45-10:30 a.m. **MOVIE** in the Youth room downstairs

We hope we see you there even if it is just for breakfast or just for the movie. But **COME** for **BOTH** if you can!!!

A short discussion of the movie and how it pertains to our lives and our faith follows the movie. See **YOU** there!



### What's in the Bible?

Kid's Sunday School

**Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.**

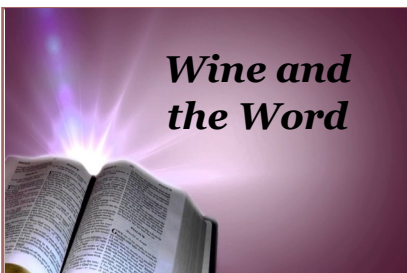
Come along with us and learn about God's great rescue plan! This year we will be learning about the stories in the Bible in new and exciting ways - movies, music, and more! This is one journey through the Bible you won't want to miss. Find out why you want to know more about "What's in the Bible."

**Every Sunday at  
9:45 a.m.**



Come and chat with Rev. Tim at the manse (parsonage) or at the picnic table. What's on your mind? Do you have any questions? Rev. Tim can help you sort out the mysteries of life in Harborcreek.

## On Monday Evenings...



### Wine and the Word

The next edition of Wine and the Word continues!

We will wrap up the study of the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive." More information about our new study will be available

soon. We meet on Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Ann and Bill Nesgoda.

## SO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE QUIZ DECEMBER



I KNOW THE BIBLE QUIZ CHALLENGE! ()

**Joshua** contains the first events to take place after the Exodus. Joshua's army conquers 31 kingdoms and divides the lands up among the tribes of Israel. **Judges** - There was a time when God was known to be head of Israel, and Israel had judges instead of kings. Some judges made poor, unethical choices because they didn't seek God's help for their decisions

1. This woman helped the spies of Israel to take over her kingdom. (*Joshua 6:17*)

2. A great promise is provided that should prevent us from experiencing this emotion often. (and one of my favorite Bible verses - so I had to include, right? ) (*Joshua 1:9*)

3. This evil woman got Samson to tell her the secret of his great strength. (*Judges 16:17-19*)

4. The judge Deborah is the only woman to do this with Israel's army (*Judges 4:4-7*)

5. This man used his brute strength to kill himself and thousands of Philistines (by forcing temple to collapse on him and others) (*Judges 16:30*)

Answer Choices: Fear...Lead...Rahab...  
Delilah...Joshua...walls collapsed...  
courage...witchcraft





# Mission Opportunities

## **MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS**



Once again the members of this church amaze me. The turnout for the Friendsgiving luncheon was incredible! You all were very generous with your support of the food pantry as we collected \$311 to spread God's love to our neighbors in need. And, what wonderful food! Thanks to all those who made the luncheon possible, as we believe everyone had a great time. It would be wonderful if this became an annual event.

Our last dinner for the year at the UPPER ROOM will be December 29. The list for donations is posted on the back bulletin board. The needs are: Water, cookies and Italian bread, AND OF COURSE VOLUNTEERS! We will once again be serving goulash, as everyone seems to enjoy it. Plan to come take advantage of this outreach project.

Please keep all the people at the UPPER ROOM in your prayers and close to your hearts. We are SO fortunate!

Ann Nesgoda, Chairperson

### **"PARENTS' TIME OUT"**

The event announcement is enclosed in a rectangular frame made of a string of colorful Christmas lights (red, green, yellow, and purple) with black wire. The text inside the frame is as follows:

Need time to Christmas shop without the kids  
or just need some time  
for a quiet lunch?

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:00—3:00 p.m.**

Harborcreek First Presbyterian Church (6724 Buffalo Road) is offering a "PARENTS' TIME OUT" event.

You can drop off your kids for an afternoon of fun. We will be eating lunch with them, doing crafts, games, and watching a movie.

Most activities will be for kids ages 4-12, however, if you would like to bring younger children let us know before the event so we can plan staffing accordingly.

In general, to help us plan event, we ask that you let us know by sending us a text to 850-774-3836 BUT if you decide to come at last minute no worries - just bring your kid(s) at 12:00 noon.



## *Session Notes from November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**NEW MEMBER:** Diane Bourne was presented to Session with a request to join our church. On a motion and second, Session voted to except Diane by her confession of faith. Motion carried. December 8 will be the Sunday she will join. Welcome Diane.

**DEACON'S REPORT:** Sue Kellerman attended the Deacons' meeting and gave their report: Youth are counting and recording Sunday attendance. Donations will be sought for the annual Thanksgiving baskets for shut-ins, which will be distributed with poinsettias on Nov. 24.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The records of the church were taken to Edinboro Presbyterian Church for annual review by Presbytery. They were complimented as a fine example, especially our motions book. (Robin added the previous sentence because Mary Ellen left it out.)

A list of 2020 Presbytery dates were discussed for the possibility of our church hosting a Presbytery meeting next year. April 25 was decided as a possibility. The clerk will work with Presbytery to see if that date is still open.

**PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONER ELECTION:** On a motion and second, Chris Thomas was elected to represent us at the Lake Erie Presbytery meeting to be held Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Elmwood Presbyterian Church in Erie.

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:** The fall stewardship campaign finished up with around 41 commitments of giving equaling \$84,244. (This amount does not include 8 capital improvement pledges. Sincere thanks to all who pledged.

The fall Swiss steak dinner was a huge success (best ever) which netted a profit of \$3,501.92. 10% (\$350.19) will be forwarded to the Mission Committee for distribution per church by-laws. Session voted to fix the septic system of the church with profits from the dinner.

All accounts balanced and on a motion and second, session voted to approve the Treasurer's September report. Motion carried.

**TRAILBLAZERS:** (Formerly Unglued Church Project): They continue to meet, working on new ideas.

Brian Griffith represented our church during the Harborcreek Community Engagement team meeting.

As an outreach to the community, we did provide volunteers on (Tuesdays and Thursdays) at the YMCA to serve meals. The Y needs to work on some better organization for this project to be successful.

Our church will be used as a drop-off site for the HC Food Pantry. Hours for the church to be open will be same as the church's office hours.

**MISSION & OUTREACH:** The Peace & Global Witness offering was \$575 with 25% (\$143.75) going to mission.

Due to rain & high winds, this year's Trunk or Treat was a drive-thru. Despite the weather, this was still a successful community outreach.

Thanks to our youth who worked on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Clean-Up Buckets for victims of natural disasters. There was a total of 35 buckets Presbytery-wide that were provided for this project.

**NOMINATING & TRAINING:** The congregational meeting to elect officers was held Nov 10<sup>th</sup> after worship. There was one vacancy for Deacon needed and was not filled. The Committee called a congregational meeting on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> to fill this vacancy. Joanne Scott has agreed. Installation of all officers will be Dec 15<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service.

Due to the amount of time needed to prepare annual reports, the committee suggested to move the annual meeting to a week when Pastor Robin could moderate. Feb. 2 was set as the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**PROPERTY:** The committee is concerned with the rising costs of the CE building's electrical usage. A new meter was installed and we will wait to see if this will have an effect on our future bills.

Several bids to repair the church's septic system that broke during the Swiss steak dinner were discussed. Work on the line that collapsed will begin on November 15<sup>th</sup>

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION:** (Formerly CHRISTIAN EDUCATION):

The Youth will present their annual Christmas play during worship on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.

The committee will have a preschool outreach by providing childcare the afternoon of Dec 8<sup>th</sup> for parents who need time for Christmas shopping.

There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**WORSHIP:** Marnie Logan recruited this year's Advent readers.

The following will fill in for pulpit supply on the last week of the designated months: November: Rev. Caul Hull; December: Brian Griffith; January: Derf Hopsecger; February, Rev. David Oyler; March: Derf Hopsecger

**MEMBERSHIP CARE & DEVELOPMENT** There will be a coffee hour with sandwiches and cookies on December 8th to welcome our newest member.

Respectfully Submitted  
Mary Ellen Flowers,  
Clerk of Session

# God's love at work...



## Helping the Homeless

A **BASKET** has been placed in the old vestibule for collection of **travel size personal care products** to be given to the homeless at The Upper Room.

Please consider donating those little bottles from your hotel stays. Thanks, Mission Committee

## Greeting Cards

Thanks to everyone who has brought greeting cards to church. I recently mailed another box of cards to St Jude's Ranch for them to repurpose and sell in their gift shop and on their website.



Please continue to bring the cards to church and place them in the basket provided on the table in our old vestibule. There are additional restrictions so PLEASE provide the entire card.

Blessings,  
Sue Kellerman  
Mission Committee

## Aluminum Cans



A ministry that started a number of years ago is growing! Dick Smith began collecting cans to recycle. All the money he collected went to benefit our outreach ministries to those in need. Peggie continues this ministry in memory of

Dick.

But it has grown...the East Erie Moose Family Center is donating all their aluminum cans...it now takes a truck to get them to the recycling center each week!

You can help by placing your cans in the recycling can behind the church.



## Harborcreek Ella Cochran Food Pantry

Just a reminder our congregation supports the Ella Cochran Food Pantry. Non-perishable food items, paper products and personal hygiene items are always needed and can be left at the top of the stairs in the main entrance of our church.



## Cancelled Stamps

Please bring your cancelled stamps to church and place them on the table on the old entrance. The stamps are boxed and forwarded to a Leprosy Organization to benefit their cause.

**New Website is live!**

**<https://hcpresbyterian.org>**



# Church Family News...



## December Birthdays!

- 1 Jennifer Fannin
- Bob Lyon
- Andrea Maille
- Chris Thomas
- 5 Holly Hedlund
- 12 Pam Mackowski
- 18 Robin Cuneo
- 22 Troy Barker
- Ashley Palmer
- 24 Jim Bemis
- 26 Esther Noonan
- Patrick Cuneo
- 27 Barb Bemis
- 29 Katelyn Beighley
- 31 Joyce Kriner



## December Anniversaries!

- 28 Dave and Betsy Roseto



Prayer List: For those serving in the armed forces. Ricky Hinkle, Jeremy Rockwell, Ryan Lemke, & Brian Hellmann. For the Lake Erie Presbytery & its leaders; for our pastor, Robin Cuneo, for church members, family & friends, we pray.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Barb Bemis          | Dick May             |
| Claudia Brown       | Hannah May           |
| & Mike Faycheck     | Emily Mellish        |
| Lois Cochran        | Jim Nelson           |
| Jeanette Comstock   | Yvonne Peters        |
| Margaret Crider     | Sandy Spangler       |
| Donna Fannin        | Bill & Sandy Stewart |
| Kevin Fisher        | Bill Stewart         |
| Shirley Hamm        | Tammy Stewart        |
| Rachel Hube         | Larry Stultz         |
| Dave & Judy Johnson | Megan Sweezey        |
| Pat Kocher          | Ann Trohoski         |
| Ann Marie Kodba     | Sally Wakeley        |
| Beverly Leighton    | David Zacks          |

If you notice an incorrect or missing birthday/anniversary, prayer request or one that is listed that should no longer be there, call the church office 899-1031 and we will update our records.



## **Remember Our Homebound**

*Some of you have asked about what you can do to keep connected to those who are unable 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.*

Lois Cochran  
4400 E. Lake Road  
Apt. 257 Erie, PA 16511

Margaret Crider  
Heritage House 30 East Street  
North East, PA 16428

Jessie Denniston  
1885 Rifle Range Rd. Cove 34  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Jim & Peggy Nelson  
2 Gibson St. Apt. 102  
North East, PA 16428

Sandy Spangler  
Sarah Reed Retirement Ctr. Room 9  
227 W. 22nd Street  
Erie, PA 16502

Eleanor Stanley  
Springhill Retirement Com.  
2301 Edinboro Road  
Erie, PA 16509



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting Election of Deacon	<b>2</b>  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Feddersen Memorial Service 11:00 a.m.
<b>8</b> Breakfast and a Movie 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Reception of New Member and Luncheon	<b>9</b> Wine and the Word 6:30 p.m. at the Nesgoda's Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	<b>14</b>  Deacons 2:00 p.m. Session 6:00 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Breakfast and a Movie 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Nativity Play Installation of Officers	<b>16</b>  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	<b>17</b>  Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> Preschool Christmas Program Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Breakfast and a Movie 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Choral Cantata	<b>23</b> Newsletter Information Due  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Communion Worship 7:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	<b>25</b>  Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. (when indicated)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> NO Sunday School Worship 11:00 a.m. Serving Lunch at Upper Room	<b>30</b>  Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	<b>31</b>	<div>           Elder of the Month:            Scott Shunk      453-3803            Deacon of the Month:            Peggie Smith      899-9103         </div>			