

First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd. Harborcreek, PA 16421 Telephone: (814) 899-1031 Email: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com Website: hcpresbyterian.org

April Volume 2020, Issue 3

Church Leadership

Pastor Robin Cuneo Pastor Emeritus......

Committee Chairs—2019

Clerk of Session......Mary Ellen Flowers
Christian Ed......Jennifer Wedzik
Membership Care &
Development.....Barb Griffith

Ann Nesgoda, Sue Kellerman Mission/Outreach.....Ann Nesgoda Sue Kellerman, Jim Watson

Nominating &

Training......Mary Ellen Flowers
Jennifer Wedzik
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman
Property....Jared Mosier
Bob Kellerman, Dave Maille
Stewardship & Finance......Dave Maille
Bob Kellerman, Jim Watson
Worship.....Chris Thomas
Recording Secretary......

_

Cindy Skladanowski

<u>Deacor</u>	<u>1S</u>
Chairperson	Nancy McNally
Vice-Chairperson	Nancy Brown
Secretary	Joanne Scott
Treasurer	
Flower Coordinator	Sally Wakeley
Caring Tree	Nancy Brown
Greeters/Liturgists,,,,,,,	
Correspondence	Aye Mosier
Funeral Dinners	Peggie Smith
	Ave Mosier

A Message from Pastor Robin:

Hello, Dear Ones!

Well, it's official. 2020 is not my year!

With some healthy weeks in between, it seems I've been really sick since January, and am still at home after a hospital stay. Sheesh.

I don't know what's causing my medical mayhem, but I do know how thoroughly grateful I am for the way all of you have been stepping up. And that was even before the Coronavirus hit and turned everything upside down!

Many, many thanks to Rev. Tim Logan for pre-virus pulpit coverage, and to the capable session team that has streamed worship since that became necessary. They're doing a terrific job. And I'm so impressed with and thankful for session's efforts to keep in touch with members by phone, to provide the helping cupboard, and to other individuals offering Lenten enrichment. And, of course, many thanks to Mary Stewart, who's keeping things humming.

I love and miss you all, and appreciate you more than you can know. That also goes for the prayers, cards and calls so many of you have offered, as well.

I'm out of danger of needing a funeral, but am still quite weak and wobbly. Thank you for your continued prayers.

May your Easter season be an especially blessed one in these troubled times, but no more troubled than that first Easter.

Thinking of and praying for you all,

Pastor Robin



From Susan Faye Wonderland, Transitional Executive

An Open Letter to the Synod of the Trinity:

Friends and colleagues, I have been trying to write for the past two days, and every time I do our situation changes! You know that; you are living this same season with me.

I write after hearing the most recent set of guidelines and expectations from Governor Wolf (3/20) that shut down non-essential businesses and buildings. And I see that religious organizations may continue physical operations, while limiting gathering size and using social distancing – for now. I hope that means, that while we may be exploring the livestreaming of worship by pastor and musician from the sanctuary, and connecting others in creative ways from their homes – I trust that means, we are no longer gathering people for worship or church-related meetings, even with 10 or less in the same space. Regardless of what we MAY do, right now, in this time – and in our places - our call to model and join with our communities in authentic ways is loud to me. That is now about keeping people safe, finding ways to care for those who are vulnerable, and so much more. It is about those of us who live where there are multiple cases of virus, and those of us living where there are none.

In the Synod offices, we are tightening up on our building use again, and formally limiting any use, even by the individuals serving in our building, to that which is absolutely necessary.

Yet neither the Presbytery of Carlisle and its ministries, nor the Synod of the Trinity, are ceasing to serve out our mission. Let me explain...

I was not quite a teenager when Dick Avery and Don Marsh came to do a concert at my home church in Hartsville, PA. I remember watching — from the balcony, I think — and it was fun, and we sang along, and the tunes stuck. Years later, Ken and I would be honored to be their neighbors in ministry, and it was special to get to cover for Dick several times and preach from "his" pulpit.



While the duo wrote wonderful music for many years, some of their earliest tunes took root in our PCUSA music culture, and several are simply embedded in this old brain and psyche.

One of the earliest children's songs I remember learning was "I am the Church! You are the Church!" It came complete with hand motions that my fingers never seemed to want to do. But today, this week, it's the words I am remembering, particularly the chorus and the first verse. Sing it if you remember, but read it if it's new:

Refrain:

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building. the church is not a steeple. the church is not a resting place. the church is a people. (refrain)

How long have we been talking in our denomination about church buildings?

Be honest.

We've been talking about their age, about their needs, about their kinda-maybe, but-not-quite ability to accommodate ministry today?

Come on, you've heard it – the word **albatross** has sometimes been used!

That's one reality.

Yet there is another: many have repurposed old spaces and are doing vital community work and ministry for which the building is the precious gift of space. Our buildings host much that is Christ's work; and they have held some of the laughter and cries and work of God's people for many years.

AND YET as the song says, the **church itself** is the people worshipping in and using the space. The congregation is — **the people** — **wherever and whenever they are.**

The congregation is - the people - wherever and whenever they are.

We have been asked to take a leap of faith this week.

We have been asked to be brave, faithful and risk-taking.

Continued next page...

...continued from previous page

We have been asked to model for the common good a way of really living what we've sung in that old song.

We have been asked to step out of our buildings and be the church differently in and for the community in ways that many have been rushing to imagine this week, even ways that we cannot yet see.

And years of missional turnaround work have been encouraging much the same thing. (Whether we've gotten there yet is another conversation!)

So, what's the rub now?

Ah, I know: We have been asked to leave the building on a timeline that is not of our own choosing, without a plan in place and without a vote and a committee!

And yes, certain parts of me (reflecting a heritage that runs deep in this region!) are almost tempted to resist or bend what is being asked of us

But this is not about me or my sensibilities. That comes later.

This is about **WE**, all of God's own, together in and beyond this **church-without-walls**. And it is about **Now**.

And yes, it is scary, and we wish we had more time to plan and pack before we go. But friends, whatever our state authorities may ask or require of us, God is asking even more. Asking more, because, I believe, how we go forward IS about us all.

Make no mistake, God is asking us to live what we have long said we know:

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together...
The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is... a people.

For such a time as this. We are the church.

Blessings,

Susan Fave Wonderland



Worship with us on Facebook

During these days of "stay home" regulations, we will be providing live-streamed worship on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Harborcreek

Join us at 11:00 a.m. for worship provided by our Worship and Spiritual Formation committees.

We will praise God through music, seek guidance through prayer, listen to God's word in scripture, and hear a message of hope.

If you have a prayer request you would liked mentioned during the live-stream service, please call the church office and leave a message for the secretary (814-899-1031).

Worship and Church Activity Update

As we continue to watch news reports, we realize that we are still in questionable times. Federal, state and local governments are continuing to restrict the movement and gatherings of people in efforts to reduce the spreading COVID-19.

Holy Week begins in a week and church leaders are discussing what to do. Decisions about when we will resume on-site worship and church activities have not been made as of this writing.

The health and needs of our members, friends and neighbors are of primary concern. Decisions will be made with that in mind. We know that we honor and praise God when we care for one another.

Because we will not be able to gather in person as a worshiping community on Easter Sunday, we will not be taking orders for Easter flowers.



Other Live-Streaming Worship and Study Opportunities

You may click on the blue highlights to go directly to the desired site.

Facebook Live Streaming Sunday Worship

Adamsville

Bradford First (11:00 a.m.)

Belle Valley (11:00 a.m.)

Church of the Covenant (11:00 a.m.)

Church of the Cross

Edinboro First

Elmwood (9:30 a.m.)

Fairview (10:30 a.m.)

First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

(11:00 a.m.)

North East (10:30 a.m.)

Port Allegany (11:00 am)

Titusville

Wayside

Zoom Live Streaming Sunday Worship

Fairview Meeting ID: 486 709 1988 or call +1 (646) 876 – 9923. Meeting ID: 486 709 1988.

Other Live Streaming Devotions

Rev. Dave Edmunds

Fairview Presbyterian Church

Youth and Young Adult Bible Studies

This week Jake Tobolewski (youth director) will continue to host bible study each day for high school students via zoom at 10am. (Zoom meeting ID 488-238-205). We are changing the College age (if you are under 25 you are more than welcome) bible study to a Monday/Wednesday at 8 pm format (Zoom Meeting ID: 880-021-416). All high school and college age students are welcome to participate. In this time of uncertainty, I feel that being part of a community is going to become increasingly important. Please spread the word.

Rev. Nathan Royster (Wayside)

Jordan Rimmer (Northminster Presbyterian Church – 4-week devotional for this time)

Recorded Services

Wayside

Oil City Second (Resource tab)

Polk

Titusville

Lectionary Readings



Even though we can not get together during the most significant event in the church year, there are ways we can experience the meaning of the season. One is through the reading of scripture. Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each Sunday in April and the days of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday

Psalm 36:5-11

Psalm 71:1-14

John 12:20-36

John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Psalm 70

John 12:1-11

Monday of Holy Week

Tuesday of Holy Week

Wednesday of Holy Week

Sunday, April 5

Palms: Matthew 21:1-11 Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66

or Matthew 27:11-54

Monday, April 6

Isaiah 42:1-9 Hebrew 9:11-15

Tuesday, April 7

Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Wednesday, April 8

Isaiah 50:4-9a Hebrews 12:1-3

Thursday, April 9

Exodus 12:1-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Friday, April 10

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Hebrews 10:16-25 or John 18:1-19:42

Good Friday

Psalm 22 Hebrews 4:14-16: 5:7-9

Sunday, April 12

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118 Matthew 28:1-10

Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter

Jeremiah 31:1-6 John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9

Sunday, April 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23

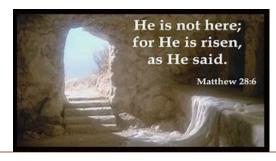
2nd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 16 John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Luke 24:13-35



What do we do now ...

Community Care

During this time of distress and uncertainty our church is offering a *NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH BOX*. This box will be filled with "free food and books" to be used by our members and our neighbors in our community that are in need of food or entertainment.

We are asking our members to place non-perishable foods and books in this box.

This *Outreach Box* will be located at our main entrance to the church. It will be positioned by the entry doors on the entrance cement platform. This will be a self-serve opportunity that can be accessed at anytime.

On Wednesdays, we are asking members whose last name begins with "A-H" to place their donations in the *Outreach Box* for pick up on Thursdays.

Then on Fridays, members with "*I-P*" will place their donations into the *Outreach Box* for pick up on Saturdays.

Then on Sundays or Mondays members with "*Q* -*Z*" will place their donations into the *Outreach Box* for pick up on Tuesday.

We fill this *Outreach Box* a day ahead of the pick up so that any germs we may have will not be spread to others needing the items in the box. If you can, wipe your donations with a disinfecting wipe before placing the items in the box.

We want members and the community to know that our church family is here for them during these difficult times.

Please continue to reach out to anyone who may be in need of this opportunity. *This ministry is for ANYONE who is in need.*

We thank you in advance for your participation. A special thank you to Dale and Trish Claypoole for providing the box!

Let us "Serve God and Others as Jesus Does"

If you have any questions please contact Barbara
Griffith 882-4523 or Brian Griffith 459-8311

Dear Friends,

It is wonderful how, you, the First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek, have reacted to the changing reality of our lives. Even through the day to day uncertainty of what each day will bring, you have stepped up to the challenge of continuing to be the church. Leadership has stepped out of the norm and are providing live-streamed worship to keep us A viral Lenten Study is being connected. organized. Every week members are calling members just to see how they are doing. A new ministry was started to reach out to neighbors who might need a helping hand through the Neighborhood Outreach Box. You kept your promise and provided lunch for those at the Upper Room. While the impacts of the coronavirus mean some changes to our daily lives, the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of people have not been put on hold and we must continue to care for those around us.

The church is not closed; it has just left the building! Even though we are not gathering inperson for a church, you are still making a difference. This means, however, that the church continues to need your tithes and offerings. You can mail your gifts to the church and the treasurer will process them. This will help us to keep current on our financial responsibilities.

Even though our world has changed, the power of God has not changed. The truth of Scripture has not changed. The hope of Jesus has not changed. Our mission as a church has not changed. Let us not give in to fear. Rather, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author, and the perfecter of our faith.

Thanks for you commitment and faith, Your Stewardship & Finance Committee



Spiritual Formation...

During this time when we need to follow government and Department of Health guidelines, our regular learning and social gatherings are suspended until further notice. Sunday School, Breakfast and a Movie and Wine and the Word will resume when the COVID-19 threat has been brought under control.



If you are interested in participating in a Viral Lenten Study, please contact Jennifer Wedzik - newjersey@gmail.com. She will forward to you the specific information.





It is with sadness that we need to cancel the Spring Swiss Steak Dinner due to the current COVID-19 situation. We, however, look ahead to the November 7th dinner!

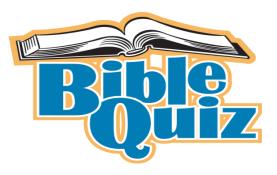
TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS!

During this time of quarantine and social distancing, the pastor and secretary will be working from their homes. Messages left on the church answering machine will be checked daily and calls will be returned as soon as possible. In case of an emergency, please call the church secretary on her cell phone: 814-881-9141. She will direct you to the appropriate person.

Office Phone number: 814-899-1031 Email Address: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com

Website: hcpresbyterian.org

SO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE QUIZ



Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther - These three books tell of Israels' story after Bablonian Exile. Their intent on protecting Judaism from outside harm and hurtful influences. Ezra and Nehemiah record the rebuilding of Jerusalem and especially Solomon's temple. Esther was still in exile when she married the king of Persia, but she prevented a genocide of her people by using her humility and a bit of wiles.

In the story of Esther, an evil man plotted genocide against the Jews because a Jewish patriarch refused to bow down and worship him. This is the evil man's name. (Esther 3:5-6)

Nehemiah was working in exile for this famous king, who allowed him to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. (Nehemiah 2:1-5)

Who is reminded by Mordecai that God sometimes
works in subtle ways and she may have been placed
in her royal position for a time such as this? (Esther
4:10-12)

We are reminded in Ezra 7:28 that our work is successful when God blesses the work. Ezra took because for the hand of the Lord was upon him.

Choose from: Tobiah, King Artaxerxes; Courage; Haman; Esther; Anger; Mordecai

Annual Geranium Sale



Plans for our Annual Geranium Sale are currently on track for mid May delivery. Order forms will be in the May newsletter and in the church bulletin later in April—assuming we have services! We will be offering the same 4 colors (red, white, light & dark pink) at the same prices: \$5 each or 4 for \$16.



Garage Sale time will also be coming up soon and our annual event is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th. We do not have any storage space at church for items, so as you go

about your spring cleaning, put things off to the side until Memorial Day and for set up on Friday, May 29th.

Session Notes



Notes from Session's March 12th meeting:

Nicki Jares from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry visited with us asking how we were doing after having just completed one year of the Unglued Church Project.

Since Maundy Thursday services will be the same date of our next scheduled session meeting, Session decided to move the April session meeting to April 16th.

Dave Maille who represented us at the March 7th Presbytery meeting at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church reported on an upcoming mission trip to West Virginia. Anyone interested in going should let him know.

Next Presbytery meeting will be in June in Fairview, Pa., There will be a celebration to honor Rev. David Oyler who will be retiring as General Presbyter this summer.

Stewardship: Session approved to pay off the balance of our 2020 per capital assessment of \$1,996.

Worship: Session decided to combine, this year only, the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and to allow Rev. Mary C. Stewart to preach and serve communion on Thursday, April 9th.

Mission: The One Great Hour of Sharing collection will be received April 5th.

The next Upper Room luncheon will be Sunday, March 29th. We will be serving brown bag lunches.

Notes from Session's March 15th meeting:

Session voted to cancel the Sunday morning church services on March 22nd and March 29th.

Session voted to empower Elders Chris Thomas and Jenn Wedzik with the task of communicating this decision to both the congregation and community. They will work with Sec. Mary Stewart to update our outdoor sign and web site of these cancellations. They are also empowered to communicate this decision to all, by use of the newsletter e-mail addresses, and possibly having an on-line mini service.

Stewardship Committee: voted to cancel the spring Swiss steak dinner on April 4th.

Other cancellations are: 4th Tuesday Get-Together & Presbytery's "The Big Event"

Mary Ellen Flowers Clerk of Session



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.

Recycling and Blessing Others!!



Aluminum Cans

A ministry start that start a number of years ago is growing! Dick Smith began

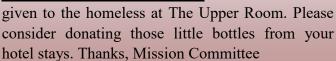
collecting cans to recycle. All the money he collected went to benefit our outreach ministries to those in need. Peggie continues this ministry in memory of Dick.

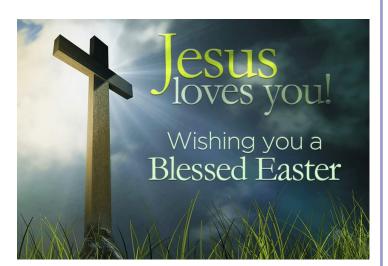
But it has grown...the East Erie Moose Family Center is donating all their aluminum cans...it now takes a truck to get them to the recycling center each week!

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

Helping the Homeless

<u>A BASKET</u> has been placed in the old vestibule for collection of <u>travel</u> <u>size personal care products</u> to be





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.



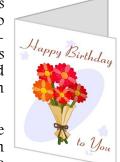
Ella Cochran (Harborcreek) Food Pantry

Just a reminder our congregation supports the

Harborcreek Food Bank. Nonperishable 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.

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

Church Family News...



<u>April</u> Birthdays!

April

- 2 Donna Fannin
- 3 Madison May
- 14 Sandy Spangler
- 18 Maria Barker
- 19 Bob DeAngelo
- 24 Sue Kellerman
- 27 Megan Swezey
- 29 Sarah King

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.

We Are in This Together

In these times of "social distancing", it is even more important to stay in touch with each other. Consider sending a note or card or make a phone call. Let each other know that they are thought of and prayed for and loved.





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.



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.

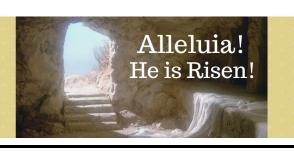
Lois Cochran 4400 E. Lake Road Apt. 257 Erie, PA 16511

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

Sandy Spangler Sarah Reed Retirement Ctr. Room 9 227 W. 22nd Street Erie, PA 16502 Margaret Crider Heritage House 30 East Street North East, PA 16428

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

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



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Because of the uncertainty of the continuing threat of COVID-19, please check with a church leader, church office or website for updates.		CANCELLED Choir Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal			CANCELLED Swiss Steak Dinner	
Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Brian Griffith Preaching Palm Sunday	Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	7	8 CANCELLED Choir Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal	Check with Chairperson Deacon Meeting 2:00 p.m. CANCELLED Maundy Thursday Worship	No Service Good Friday Worship	11
Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Mary Stewart Preaching Easter Sunday	Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	14	CANCELLED Choir Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal	Check with Clerk of Session Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	17	18
Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Rev. Tim Logan Preaching	Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	POSTONED Prayer Shawl Ministry	CANCELLED Choir Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal	23	24	25
Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	Women's AA Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	CALL CHURCH OFFICE 4th Tuesday Fellowship 12:00 noon	CANCELLED Choir Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal	30	Mary 814 Deacon	of the Month: Ellen Flowers 4-440-8082 n of the Month: ye Mosier 4-923-2458