



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

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Harborcreek, PA 16421

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January Volume 2021, Issue 1

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, 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

Deacons

Chairperson.....Nancy McNally
Vice-Chairperson.....Nancy Brown
Secretary.....Joanne Scott
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith
Flower Coordinator.....Sally Wakeley
Caring Tree.....Nancy Brown
Greeters/Liturgists.....Joanne Scott
Correspondence.....Aye Mosier
Funeral Dinners.....Peggie Smith
Aye Mosier



Happy New Year, Dear Ones,

The undoubtedly strangest Advent and Christmas any of us have ever experienced is in the books, but I'm not ready to let go of the concept of the light that pierces Advent and creates the radiance of Christmas.

I love the Isaiah 9:2 passage: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined"

Despite the virus making it too dangerous to worship together in person, our media and music volunteers continue to provide meaningful, heartfelt worship. How fortunate we are that Jared Mosier and Chris Thomas and all those who work with them love our church and church family! Bright lights indeed.

Maybe the largest bright spot outside of church for the coming year is the Covid-19 vaccines that are beginning to be available. Once they're widespread, we'll be able to begin worshipping together again.

As the new year begins, let us remember that nothing can separate us from the light that entered the world at Jesus' birth. I pray that radiance may continue to illuminate our dark days, and glow upon the joy and peace we experienced at Christmas. And may that glow warm us throughout the year.

Please know that the grace of God remains visible in our community of faith, and that the vitality of our congregation continues during this challenging time. Let's try to discover the new things God is doing in our midst!

In the meantime, I hold all of you in my heart and in my prayers.

Pastor Robin

Worship News

Facebook Worship Available Every Sunday



Ways to Connect

There are several ways you can connect to live virtual worship and recordings.

Live Facebook worship services can be joined every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

- by going to Facebook @firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek;
- Or by going to our website at hcpresbyterian.org, scrolling down the home page and clicking on Facebook link to streaming worship service.

You can view past worship services by going to the website; hover mouse over “Worship & Music” tab and then click on Worship Service Videos.

NEW!! Audio recordings of worship services can be accessed any time of day **Simply call the number 814-203-4173 and you can listen to a recording of that week’s service/sermon.**



Worship Liturgists

Sunday, January 3	Mary C. Stewart
Sunday, January 10	Dena Barker
Sunday, January 17	Dave Maille
Sunday, January 24	Mary Ellen Flowers
Sunday, January 31	Jim Stewart

Lectionary Readings for January 2021

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each Sunday in October.

Sunday, January 3

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12

Epiphany Sunday
Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 10

Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7

Baptism of the Lord
Psalms 29
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Psalms 62:5-12
Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Psalms 111
Mark 1:21-28

Pastor Robin will be working from home during the pandemic restrictions.

She can be reached directly by phone during her normal office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling **814-823-7765**.

She is *always* available at that number or at 716-769-7394.

Pastor Robin preaches every Sunday **except** the last Sunday of each month.

Please note that Robin’s new email address is: **robincuneo@gmail.com**



Connectional Ministry

2021 Per Capita

As part of a **connectional church system**, we contribute \$32 per member to help support the Lake Erie Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity and the Biennial General Assembly. We ask members of the congregation to help with this obligation by covering their part of the apportionment by the end of March. There is a special blue envelope in your offering box or you can just write “per capita” on a generic envelope (or memo line of your check). Offering envelope boxes are available at the top of the stairs near the offices.

Thanks, Stewardship and Financial Committee



A sincere THANK YOU! to Joanne Scott who sent out Christmas cards to members and to Sue Kellerman and Barb Mosier who delivered poinsettias and cards to many of our precious members.

Membership Committee

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back
with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in
the heart.

Howard Thurman



Our annual election of officers will take place right after worship (about 11:45 a.m.) Sunday, January 3. Of course, due to the raging pandemic, that meeting will not be in person. Instead, we'll use Zoom. A Zoom connection will be sent to everyone on the email list. For those with poor or no Internet access, call someone who is able to connect to Zoom and they can let you listen through your phone.

Our annual congregational meeting and installation of officers will take place Jan. 24, also right after worship. We'll use the same /Zoom procedure as above.

BACKPACK PROGRAM



As you know we have joined with the Second Harvest Food Bank to provide food for the weekend to local elementary students who otherwise may not have enough to eat. We are requesting that you sponsor a child or help to sponsor a child. One child is \$125 for the school year. We are able to sponsor up to 40 children. Please help to feed someone today! The response has been tremendous and we THANK YOU for your support! Please help in any way you are able. Make a check payable to First Presbyterian Church and be sure to mark your check for BACKPACK PROGRAM. Thank you for being the caring, supportive church family you are and one that is always willing to help out.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CALLING TEAM!!

Thank you to the weekly membership calling team who have been so dedicated since last April.

This team has made the effort to keep in touch with the congregation on a regular basis to help all stay connected with our church.

Thanks to Trish Claypoole, MaryEllen Flowers, Barbara Griffith, Brian Griffith, Bob Kellerman, Sue Kellerman, Nancy McNally, Carol Mulvin, Ann Nesgoda, Bill Nesgoda, Joanne Scott, Peggie Smith, Sally Wakeley, Nancy Way and Jenn Wedzik.

The Membership Committee



Blessing Boxes

With winter here, we are finding the need just as concerning as ever. Because of the colder temperatures we are not able to put some items in the outreach boxes. We ask that you **not** to bring food items that are canned or in glass containers until warmer weather is here in the spring.

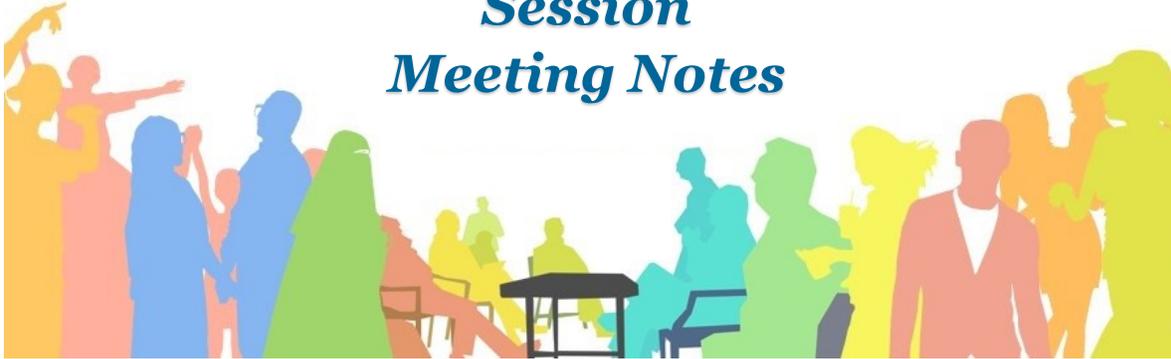
Here are some suggestions of things to donate:

- pasta or side dish packets with rice or pasta
- oatmeal or boxes of cereal but not large ones due to space issues
- granola or breakfast bars
- dried beans, rice, nuts, instant soup mixes
- boxed potatoes such as Au gratin or instant mashed potatoes
- baking mixes such as Bisquick
- muffin or bread mixes

For the non-food box, donations of paper products, puzzle books for recreation, face masks, socks & winter items like hats, mittens and scarves, fabric softener sheets, powder laundry detergent, mouthwash, bar soap or solid deodorants would be appreciated.

Don't forget—We are still following all the guidelines that will keep us safe during this pandemic. Whenever you are in the building or on church property, you must wear a mask and keep a 6 foot distance from others. Please follow all the posted guidelines throughout the church. Remember it is our spiritual responsibility to care for and protect each other!

Session Meeting Notes



Notes from November Session: meeting:

DEACON'S REPORT: The Food bank's angel tree will be going up in the church soon and also will be looking for donations of hats, scarfs and socks. Because of the virus, the Deacons will not provide Thanksgiving baskets to our shut-ins.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Robin has been attending zoom meeting with area pastors. She also held her first zoom funeral. Session discussed the status of in-person Sunday morning worship and decided with the increase numbers of Covid 19 virus, we would recommend to all to continue streaming from home. Also we would ask the groups, who would like to meet at the church, during the week, not to meet until further notice.

TRAILBLAZER'S REPORT: The committee's reminder for the outreach "Blessing" boxes need of refilling. Different items for these boxes because of winter temperatures were discussed. We will try to get the word out by promoting these lists in the newsletter and bulletin. Also the new project, backpack outreach for area elementary schools" was explained. We will support Klein School.

PROPERTY: Reported on the following:

- Installation of the outside awning at the CE building.
- Furnace being fixed.
- Elevator being worked on and inspection due.
- And reminding Penelec to replace the downed utility pole and electric lines on manse property.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION: The youth are working on the Lake Erie Presbytery's "Neighbor to Neighbor" program.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Treasurer Jim Watson reported that our church's financial accounts have all balanced.

MISSION & OUTREACH: The 2020 Peace and Global Witness Offering was held. \$410 was donated with \$102.50 designated to stay for local use.

The mission committee donated apple juice and donut holes to the Preschool as they did not have their annual Halloween parade.

OLD BUSINESS: the groups to use our building from the Erie Infants Home and the Alcohol Anonymous group were denied until it is safer to be open.

Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Flowers, Clerk of Session

The nominating and training committee would like to thank the following who have completed their terms as officers of this church:

Elders: Jim Watson, Jennifer Wedzik, and Dave Maille. Dave will be staying on Session.

Deacons: Aye Mosier and Nancy Brown

There will be a congregational Zoom meeting on January 3rd after worship for the purpose of electing new officers.

Our annual congregational meeting after worship will be a zoom meeting on Jan 24th.

Thanks again!

Church Office Hours

The secretary has resumed regular office hours. She will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Office Phone number: 814-899-1031

Email Address: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com

Website: hcpresbyterian.org

Reflection for Epiphany



The New Year is here with all the promises of new possibilities and hope. Along with the New Year, comes the church holiday Epiphany or the Feast of the Three Kings. It is a day on which Christians traditionally remember the journey of the wise men to greet and worship the Christ-child. This time between Epiphany and Christmas symbolizes the fact that the Magi arrived sometime after Jesus' birth, perhaps even as much as two years afterwards. The story of their coming from the East has captivated generations across the years, and continues to speak powerfully today, so many lessons emerging from it. Epiphany is defined as an experience of sudden and striking realization. For us it is the realization of who this Christ Child really is—he is no ordinary Child—he is our Savior.

Author Nick Fawcett wrote in his book *No Ordinary Man*, a reflection called *Meditation of the Magi*. It reminds us that from the beginning of Jesus' life, there were pointers towards the end: towards the sacrifice he came to make in order to make possible new life for all. He writes:

Meditation of the Magi

Do you know what we gave him –
that little boy in Bethlehem?
Go on, have a guess!
A rattle?
A toy?
A teddy bear?
No, nothing like that!
In fact, nothing you'd associate
with a child at all,
even if he *was* destined to be a king.
Gold, that's what I brought!
And my companions?
Wait for it!
Frankincense and myrrh!
Yes, I thought you'd be surprised,
for, to tell the truth, we're pretty amazed
ourselves looking back,

unable to imagine what on earth possessed us
to choose such exotic and unusual gifts.
It wasn't so much that they were costly,
though they were, of course –
to a family like his they were riches
beyond their dreams.
But we could more than afford it –
little more than small change to men
of our means.
No, it wasn't the price that troubled us
afterwards,
but the associations,
the possible meaning his parents
might have read into our presents
when we'd gone.
Not the gold, there was no problem there –
a gift fit for a king and
designed to say as much, of course.
But frankincense?
Well, the main use his people have for that,
as we learned later,
is to sweeten their sacrifices,
to pour out on to their burnt offerings
so that the fragrance might be pleasing
to their God.
Hardly the most appropriate gift for a baby.
But compared with myrrh!
Don't tell me you don't know?
It was a drug used to soothe pain,
either for that or as a spice for embalming –
more fitting for a funeral than a birth,
having more to do with suffering
and death than celebration!
So what were we thinking of?
What possible significance could gifts like those
have for a little child?
Frankly, I have no idea.
Yet at the time the choice seemed as obvious to
us as following the star,
as though each were all part of some greater
purpose,
which would one day become clear to all.
Were we right?
Well, after all I've said, I rather hope not,
for if this king was born to die,
to be offered in sacrifice rather than
enthroned in splendor,
then his must be an unusual kingdom,
very different from most we come across –
in fact, you might almost say,
not a kingdom of this world at all!

Church Family News...



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 13 Trish Claypoole
- 15 Michael Schrimper
- 23 Peggy Nelson
- 30 Nancy Way
- 30 Kathy Stewart
- 31 Mary Ellen Flowers

Anniversaries

- 15 Bill and Ann Nesgoda

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.



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a request for the prayer chain, please speak to any 2021 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.



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.

Please remember in prayer those who work in the medical field, public safety, first responders and all workers who have returned to work.

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Barb Bemis | Judy Johnson | Ryan Scott |
| Claudia Brown & Mike Faycheck | Pat Kocher | Sandy Spangler |
| Trish Claypoole | Ann Marie Kodba | Sandy Stewart |
| Lois Cochran | Beverly Leighton | Larry Stultz |
| Margaret Crider | Dick May | Megan Swezey |
| Judy Ellwood's sister Sue | Hannah May | Sue Tuszynski (Annie Stewart's sister) |
| Donna Fannin | Emily Mellish | Sally Wakeley |
| Kevin Fisher | Bob and Carol Mulvin | Ron Washe |
| Rev. Jack Graham | Jim Nelson | Abigail Wilkinson |
| Shirley Hamm | Yvonne Peters | Family of Steve Wood |
| Rachel Hube | Wilda Resinger | David Zacks |
| | Dean Scott | |

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
Room 9
227 W. 22nd Street
Erie, PA 16502

Eleanor Stanley
Springhill Center
2323 Edinboro Rd. 518c
Erie, PA 16509



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Election of Officers after worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	11	12	13	14 Session ZOOM Meeting 6:00 p.m.	15	16
17 Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	18	<p style="text-align: center;">GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR WORSHIP DURING COVID-19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(We realize nobody likes this many rules. Our <i>only</i> goal is to keep everyone safe. Thank you.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please always wear a mask on church property, whether indoors or outside. Please cover nose <i>and</i> mouth. • Please social distance (6 feet) <i>at all times</i> on church property, whether indoors or outside. • The sanctuary is taped off into safe social distancing. Please read the tags to tell if you're using a correct seat – from single to family. Your old seat <i>may</i> not be available. • Overflow space will be available in the fellowship hall. • Singing. <i>So, so</i> sorry, but we just can't do it. It's simply not safe. No churches in the Presbytery are allowing live choirs or congregational singing. Instead, please consider humming, reciting the words, or meditating on the words. • A song leader will lead each week, and be the only person singing live, at a safe distance. • Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. • Please follow directions posted on restroom doors, and use sanitizer and wipes provided. • Please leave the building promptly after worship. The longer we hang around inside, the more possibility there is of unintentionally shedding the virus in the building. 				
24 Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting	25					
31 Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.						