

# The Lamplighter Newsletter

## First Presbyterian Church Of Hokendauqua

Elders Class 2026

Carol Clancy  
Sally Heffner  
Eileen Tremblay

Elders Class of 2027

Kevin Justice  
John Hrizuk  
Mary Ann Miller  
Phil Overby

Elders Class of 2028

Scott Kramlich  
Sue Butchinski  
Jennifer Hartman  
John Faisetty

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Deacons Class of 2026

Louise Juretus  
Lois Yudt  
Gail Kramlich  
Deb Snyder

Deacons Class of 2027

Connie Overby  
Karen Sentiwany  
Sue Hoke  
Barbara Quigg

Deacons Class of 2028

Melody Faisetty  
Gail Rhinehart  
Megan Justice

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*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Of  
Hokendauqua's Monthly Newsletter*

*April 2026*

*Grace and peace to you! We are thrilled to share some  
exciting updates and upcoming events happening in our church community!*

*We invite you to share it's contents to the community.*

*"In times of uncertainty and challenges, our faith can serve as a source of  
strength and hope."*



## Ponderings from PC:

Greetings Everyone!

There is so much going on right now in our world, in our environment, and in our local communities, that I really have no idea upon which of these to focus at this time. As I have mentioned in worship on a couple of occasions, my heart hurts right now with all the hurts in this world. There are warring nations, warring peoples, and warring minds. There are brothers standing against brothers, sisters against sisters, parents against children, and children against grandparents. I am hearing some scripture in this and I hesitate in lifting that up because I certainly do not want to be accused of trying to predict the coming of Christ.

However, it is something that I know is in our hearts and minds in this period of life and the world. And so, I want to acknowledge that I hear you and that my heart too breaks for those in harms way each and every day of their lives. I also want to assure you that you are not alone and that I am walking beside each of you as we journey together. I know, too, that we are not alone as the Spirit walks beside us as well.

The scripture that I do want to give you in this time of tumult and war is one of hope and comfort, one that has given me something to cling to when I am most anxious and concerned in this world and that is...Romans 8:38-39 which reads, "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither

## Ponderings continued...

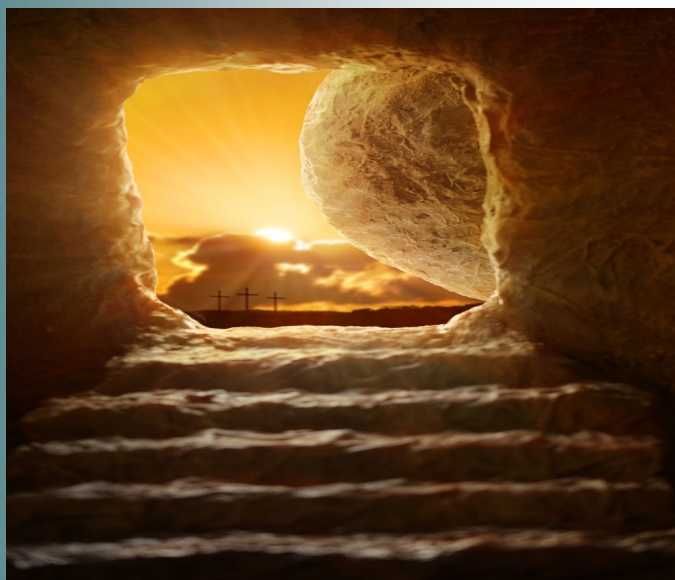
angels nor rulers, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

And so, as we wrap up Lent, a season of lament and repentance, and begin anew with Spring and more importantly, the promise of the resurrection, let us hold onto these words in this time in our world and continue to pray for peace, comfort, protection, and that we can always feel God’s abiding love around us always and in all ways.

May we all be blessed in this season as we are a blessing to others!

God’s peace and blessings,

Pastor Christian



*Financials- January &  
February 2026*  
*Sue Butchinski, Treasurer*

MTD

Actual

Budget

Over/(Under)

Income

Expenses

Net



YTD

Actual

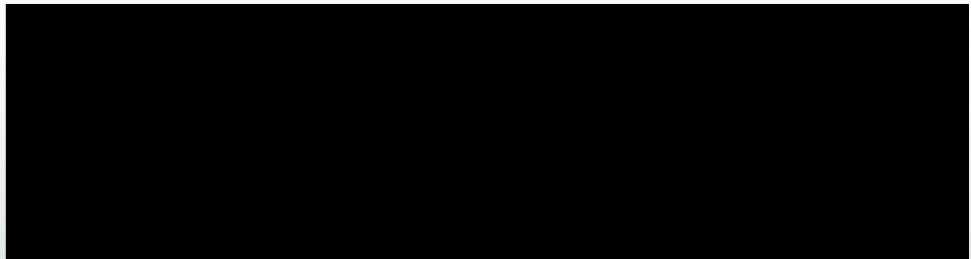
Budget

Over/(Under)

Income

Expenses

Net



**Maundy Thursday April 2, Worship at  
6:30 PM with hand washing and communion**

**April 3**

**Good Friday Prayer Vigil from**

**9 AM to Noon**

**to be held in the CHAPEL.**

**This is a time to spend in contemplation and prayer.**

**PC will be here for the entire time, but you are invited to join him for a few seconds, a few minutes, or however long you would like to spend in the CHAPEL with him. There will be resources available to guide you through some time, should you like to participate in the time that Jesus is on the cross until darkness falls over the land.**

**April 5,**

**Easter Sunday –**

**Worship at 10 AM**

**with communion and a celebration of the empty tomb.**



## Deacon Updates

Deacons finally got to meet in February after missing two weeks of church closures due to weather. To recap a few things from 2025...the mitten tree was adorned with 113 items graciously donated by members. Many thanks to all who gave items in the overflowing bin for the Warming Station. Children's items were delivered to the Caring Place along with countless coats that you donated for the coat drive. On a trip to the Warming Station, we learned that they no longer wanted clothing (other than hats or gloves), so coats were taken to the Rescue Mission. All these places appreciated everything. The Souper Bowl Sale was a success again. Thanks to all those good cooks who took the time to make them. What a perfect day it was too, as the weather was frigid that morning.



The teachers' closet in the middle Sunday school room is shaping up nicely. Donations are always welcomed for this ongoing project. Spiral notebooks, crayons, pencils, glue sticks (not the white liquid), tissues, and hand sanitizers are needed.



Several deacons had the opportunity in December to meet Amaya, a Gockley first grade student battling leukemia. She and her family were delightful and it warmed our hearts that Amaya and her little brother had fun choosing a hat and gloves from the mitten tree. The family was surprised and appreciated the donation from the deacons.

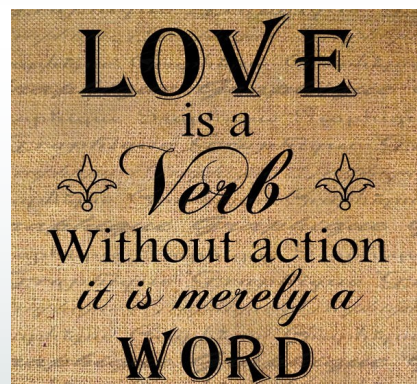
## Deacon's Report Continued.....

Upcoming plans for 2026 included the Easter flower sale. Prices were set the same as last year because we view this as a service to the congregation and not a fundraiser. February 28 was the last day for Warming Station donations. Our card ministry and Meal Train are both going strong. If any of you would like to make a meal for the Meal Train, or give a gift card, when the need arises, please see any deacon to get on the list.

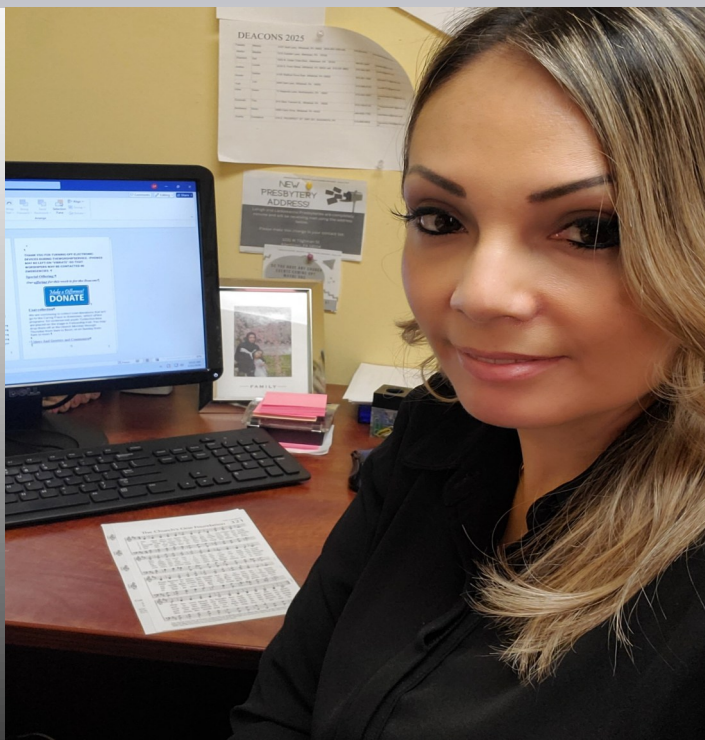
A Mothers'/Fathers' Day Luncheon is planned for May 31 after worship. We are most grateful for the generosity shown by our church family members throughout the year. Your caring ways truly enable the success of all projects for our community and beyond.

Blessings to you all!

Melody Faisetty



Hello everyone! My name is Rebecca, and I am grateful for this opportunity to join First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua as the new church secretary. I am a devoted Christian who believes strongly in living out my faith through service, compassion, and helping others to give support in their spiritual journey. I am a single mother to two wonderful children. They are the center of my life. They continue to inspire me to grow in faith and perseverance. I bring with me more than 17 years of experience as a medical assistant, that comes with strong organizational skills, compassion, and a heart for serving others along with offering comfort during difficult moments. In addition to my professional experience, I am currently pursuing a degree in social work, continuing my commitment to helping and supporting people. I am very grateful and blessed for the opportunity to be apart of the church family and I look forward to connecting with all of you and growing together in faith in this new chapter.



# *Church News*

## *Invitation to Join the Church Beautification Team*

Session has approved the formation of a new team dedicated to making our church home a more inviting and welcoming place for worship and for all the events we host throughout the year.

This team will take a fresh look at our church interior through the eyes of a first-time visitor. The team's work will include:

- Identifying and removing clutter, outdated materials, and unnecessary furnishings
- Updating bulletin boards that are not already maintained by specific groups
- Helping select decorations and materials for holidays and special events
- Putting up, taking down, and rotating seasonal or event-related decorations
- Offering recommendations to Session for improvements that may require funding, such as furnishings, lighting, or other interior updates.

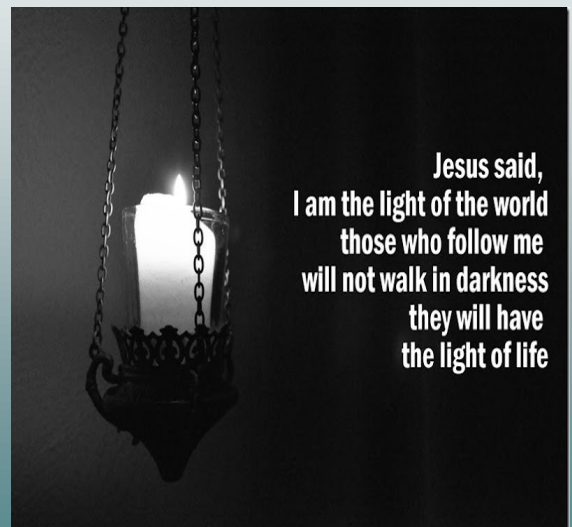
To do this well, we want a wide range of perspectives from across the congregation. If you have an eye for hospitality, organization, décor, or simply care about helping our church feel warm and welcoming, we would love to have you participate. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact John Hrizuk by email at [clerk@hokeypres.org](mailto:clerk@hokeypres.org) or by calling or texting 484-894-3286.

### *Greeters & Ushers*

April 2nd	Tom & Sally Heffner
April 5th	Carol & Tom Steigerwalt
April 12th	Phil Overby & Tom Heffner
April 19th	John & Melody Faisetty
April 26th	Carol Clancy & Sue Butchinski

### *Communion Servers:*

April 5th	Kevin Justice & John Hrizuk
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## What's Going On

*April 7th Tues Fellowship lunch will be held at 1PM with place TBD*

- *N.A will continue to meet every Thursday at 7pm*
- *Adult Sunday School meets after service on Sundays*

*Choir practice is held every Wednesday at 6pm except the third Wednesday*

*The Choir will sing on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.*

- *Tuesday Fellowship meets every first and third Tuesday of the month. The third Tuesday meets at the church for fellowship and crafts. All are welcome!"*
  - *Girl Scouts meet every Monday at 6:30pm*
  - *A Mothers'/Fathers' Day Luncheon*

*Will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> after worship.*

### Father's Day at the Iron Pigs :

- *On Sunday, June 21, you are invited to join Pastor Christian and Stephanie in the Diamond Room at the Iron Pigs. This year, we are joining with another group and have reserved a suite at Coca-Cola Park to watch a little baseball and celebrate with our fathers! Tickets are \$40 for this event and can be reserved with*

*Stephanie Creyer.*

- *Please join Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of Compassion for the most vulnerable around the world. Accepting donations , Feb 15-April 5th via online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs), You can also text OGHS to 91999 to give.*

*You can scan the QR code in back of the One Great Hour Of Sharing pamphlet that has been attached to the bulletin during the month of March services.*

*\*Deacon Meeting Scheduled April 26th\**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## April Birthdays

<b>William Martin</b>	<b>April 2</b>
<b>Janine Hartman Brown</b>	<b>April 3</b>
<b>Elliot Waters</b>	<b>April 8</b>
<b>Kyle Kramlich</b>	<b>April 10</b>
<b>Shirley Adams</b>	<b>April 12</b>
<b>Faye Mehalshick</b>	<b>April 12</b>
<b>Jonah Hartman Brown</b>	<b>April 14</b>
<b>Nicole Matthews</b>	<b>April 15</b>
<b>Danny Seidick</b>	<b>April 19</b>
<b>Brian Hartman</b>	<b>April 20</b>
<b>William Brown</b>	<b>April 20</b>
<b>Monica Snyder</b>	<b>April 25</b>
<b>Leola Andrews</b>	<b>April 26</b>
<b>Nicole Goshey</b>	<b>April 28</b>

## REDNER'S RECEIPTS

We continue to collect receipts from REDNER'S grocery store. There is a container in the Fellowship room. They really add up! Please do not cut tapes; the whole tape is needed to receive credit.

## Food Bank

Spring is in the air. The birds are singing, flowers are blooming, tummies growling. Let us help do our part in keeping those food bank shelves stocked. Please pick up a box of pasta to help our community's most vulnerable. We appreciate and thank you for your generous donations.

## Share Gods Light!

When darkness seems overpowering  
And there is no light in sight.  
The dreams you buried deep inside  
May lead you through the darkest night.  
For dreams are positive happy wishes.  
That you made on brightest days  
So recalling those sweet sun-soaked dreams  
Will bring God's light of love your way.  
Carry those hopes close to your heart  
The illuminations will soon spread.  
You'll feel the warmth inside you first .  
It will highlight your face and clear your head  
Then you can spread God's light of hope.  
To your family and friends  
With just a smile or warm "Hello!"  
Shared with strangers-to-be-friends.  
Story ending is the light of God  
Which creates the light of life.  
That dwells in every one of us  
And dispels darkness in no time .

Sheila K Stephen

“In this season let's remember to spread God's light of hope”

# April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 <i>Choir Practice</i>	2 <i>Maundy Service 6:30pm</i>	3 <i>Good Friday Vigil 9am-noon</i>	4
5 <i>Communion</i> <i>Joyful noise Easter service 10am</i>	6 <i>Scouts 6:30pm</i>	7 <i>Fellowship Lunch</i>	8 <i>Choir Practice</i>	9 <i>N.A. Meets 7pm</i>	10	11
12 <i>Mission</i> <i>Adult Sunday School after service</i>	13 <i>Scouts 6:30pm</i>	14	15 <i>Choir Practice</i>	16 <i>N.A. Meets 7pm</i>	17	18
19 <i>Deacons</i> <i>Adult Sunday School after service</i>	20 <i>Scouts 6:30pm</i>	21 <i>Fellowship</i>	22 <i>Choir Practice</i>	23 <i>N.A. Meets 7pm</i>	24	25 <i>Wedding</i>
26 <i>Foodbank Deacon Meeting Sunday School after service</i>	27 <i>Scouts 6:30pm</i>	28	29 <i>Choir Practice</i>	30 <i>N.A. Meets 7pm</i>		