

LAMPLIGHTER

A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua

Phone: 610-264-9693

newsletter@hokeypres.org

December 2025

Elders Class of 2025

Gail Rhinehart
Scott Kramlich
John Faisetty
Jennifer Hartman

Elders Class of 2026

Sally Heffner
Carol Clancy
Eileen Tremblay

Elders Class of 2027

Kevin Justice
John Hrizuk
Phil Overby
MaryAnn Miller

Deacons Class of 2025

Melody Faisetty
Maddie Stettler
Gail Kramlich

Deacons Class of 2026

Louise Juretus
Deb Snyder
Lois Yudt

Deacons Class of 2027

Sue Hoke
Karen Sentiwany
Connie Overby

Dearest God,

*Please neve let me crowd my full to the brim, so like
the keeper of Bethlehem's Inn. I find I have no
room for Him.*

*Instead, let my heart's door be ever open, ready to
welcome The Newborn King. Let me offer the best
I have*

To Him Who gives me everything.

(author unknown)



*"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is
room for Jesus"*

Neal A. Maxwell

Ponderings from PC



Greetings Everyone!

Have any of you noticed what I noticed this year? There were multitudes of houses decorated for Christmas this year, long before Thanksgiving and certainly long before Christmas. I do not know about you, but this has really bothered me this year. We (as a society) are certainly becoming more impatient as time goes on. Maybe this is because I love all the “things” that come before we get to Advent and Christmas...I love Halloween, always have and I have always enjoyed Thanksgiving (even though it takes all day to prepare a meal that we typically consume in about 20 minutes)! And to be honest, I fear that society is beginning to put aside the meaning and reason for the season...Each year, it seems that this fear is becoming less a fear and more a reality. I have forgotten, myself, to stop and pause to consider why we celebrate over the years. I get it, it is easy to succumb to all the hype of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. Did you notice that all of these days, aside from Giving Tuesday, are focused on shopping! Throughout my career, I have often preached about how society has commercialized this season and now it is starting sooner than ever...I saw my first Christmas shopping commercial before Halloween (and my birthday for that matter). I am afraid of what will come next...and I fear that we as Christians, will also succumb to all this commercialization. I was once told that fear is only False Evidence Appearing Real. However, I also do not want to lose sight of the fact that this really is not false evidence. And when you are truly afraid of something, whether that be physical like spiders or thunderstorms, or something perceived like being in unfamiliar surroundings, the feelings you have are not false evidence, right? I can imagine that our Holy Family might have been facing some real fears in that time leading up to the birth of Christ too. I mean, imagine being a young woman who just found out that you were pregnant and you had not married your fiancée or how Joseph might have feared what would happen to his reputation when people found out about Mary’s pregnancy? Those are real fears and so, as you will see later in the newsletter, we are exploring these fears and our own fears this Advent, so that when we get to Christmas Eve together, we will truly have a heart that is open to God’s words and prompting, so that we can find some hope in what seems like a hopeless world. I pray you will join me on this journey and that we will all come out of Christmas with more hopes than fears.

God’s peace and blessings,

Pastor Christian





Financials—Sue Butchinski, Treasurer

October 2025

Financials: October 2025

MTD:



Deadline for poinsettia orders is November 30. Red, white, pink or marble at \$11 each. Checks made out to deacons fund.

We will be holding a coat collection. Donations will go to the Caring Place in Allentown, which offers programs for underserved youth. Collection bins are placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall along with the Mitten Tree.



Our **Adult Sunday School** (or Bible Study) will begin the first Sunday after Labor Day, **September 7th, following the worship service, in the chapel**, the room right off Fellowship Hall.

We have been studying the book of "**Revelation, the Triumph of God,**" by R. Paul Stevens. Our first study will be a review of chapters 1 - 8, then we will go on to chapter 9. Please let Carol Clancy know if you will need a book, which is a **LifeGuide study book**.

PART-TIME SECRETARY POSITION

The First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua is seeking a part-time Secretary to join our team. The Secretary will perform a variety of secretarial and administrative tasks under the general day-to-day supervision of the Pastor. These duties support the overall function and activities of the church, ensuring smooth church operations. This role involves working 12 hours per week, with a schedule of 3 hours per day, 4 days per week. The start date for this position is January 2026. This position offers a starting pay rate of \$15.50 per hour, followed by a 3-month review. To learn more about the part-time Secretary position, please contact maryann.miller@hokeypres.org.



SUNDAY FUNDAY

Sunday Funday began on the 16th of November. We welcomed back Ashlynn, Riley, Jocelyn and new student Emma, daughter of our former student, Carlee Worman. Emma informed me that she is 7 years old, and not 6 years old as I thought! Jocelyn is visiting her aunt Jen Hartman and is the daughter of Jessica (Hartman). We began at the beginning, the Creation Story. Thank you to Ashlynn and Riley for helping with the "littles. The teachers were Sue Hoke, Gail Rhinehart and Eileen Tremblay. Sunday Funday will be held every Sunday. Tell your friends and neighbors if they have children who would like to join in a non competitive activity please come and join us. They can call the church secretary and she will pass the message along.

A REFRESHER ON WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

By Sue Butchinski

I wanted to take time to refresh everyone on what happens to your hard-earned money when you drop it in the collection plate each week. We have three categories on our envelopes, Current expenses, Benevolence and Building Fund. Current expenses, like it says, goes to pay for the budgeted expenses used to keep the church going, like payroll, insurance, property upkeep, utilities, office expense, etc. Benevolence is a pledged amount that goes to unified mission support split between Lehigh Presbytery, General Assembly and Synod. Session determines the amount pledged, and we have been at \$1000.00 per year for some time. I pay a prorated amount of \$83.33 monthly to the Presbytery, along with the prorated amount of our Per Capita for the year. The per capita is currently \$48 times the number of active members on our books at the end of the previous year, therefore I pay \$492.00 each month along with the Benevolence amount. The third category, Building Fund, is as it says, to be used for new builds, or building repairs beyond the realm of regular maintenance, which is a budgeted item. For example, the Brickote repair and painting came out of this fund. If someone donates to this fund, I can only use the funds for that purpose, and not for budgeted expenses, etc. That follows for all of the other accounts that are separate from the budgeted accounts. The Christian Ed fund, Memorial Fund, Special Collections (OGHS, Peace, Pentecost), Mission, Foodbank, Fellowship, Deacons, are all independent accounts which are limited to use for only their purpose. Memorial funds have to be used for a special purpose, determined by Session, which can be identified as a memorial to the person or people for whom the money was donated, such as the front doors installed through Memorial funds. So for the three categories shown on the envelopes, the current balances are as



Longest Night Service (aka Blue Christmas)

We acknowledge the grief, sorrow and loneliness that many feel during the Christmas Season.

This service will take place December 21st at 5PM at the 2nd Presbyterian Church, 143 Parsonage, Pittston, PA 18640.

Greeters/Ushers

USHER/GREETER

Dec. 7—Len Burkert & Leola Andrews

Dec. 14—Diane & Terry Michaels

Dec 21: Eileen Tremblay & Gail
Rhinehart

Dec. 24: 6:30: John & Melody
Faisetty

Dec. 28: Karen & Dave Sentiwany

December Communion

Set-up and clean-up: Sue Butchinski

Communion Servers: Tom and Sally
Heffner

What's Going On

Tuesday Fellowship meets the first and third Tuesday of the month. The first Tuesday is lunch out, the third Tuesday is meeting at the church for fellowship etc..

Session meets the third Wednesday of each month.

Choir practice is held at 6PM every Wednesday of the month except the third Wednesday due to Session meeting. The choir will sing on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

NA: Will continue to meet here every Thursday at 7PM

Adult Sunday School meets after church service on Sundays. They will begin a more in-depth study of Revelation following the Worship Service.

Children's Sunday School starts in November.

Please drop a card or note to our members who, because of health or transportation problems, find it difficult to worship with us Sunday morning.



Stephanie Baily

Karen Becker

Elizabeth Connors

Kathy Cutter

Michael Dobry

Dolly Dougherty

Alisa Gashi

Peter Gilbert

Steve Glick

Raina Gomez

Maria Gontkosky

Charlie Grim

Larry Hein

Louise Hein

Pamela Henckel

Matthew Hess

Nicky Hudack

Bill Jodry

Lois Jodry

Joe Kanusky

Raymond Kern

Barbara Knarr

Linda Kramaranko

Tom Krause

Caroline Laudhorn

Jaden Leiby

Ivy Lynch

Todd Messner

Krista Overby & Family

Angie Pontician

Jacob Rivera

Ben Sammak

Schoenenberger Family

Rowan Sharrar

Joanne Sienkiewicz

Jane Tremblay

Donna Walck

Carol Wal

Mike Woodling

Vance Woodley

People suffering from depression.

People suffering because of war.

People in the Military.





OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Thursday,
9am–Noon;

PHONE NUMBER: 610-264-9693.

WEBSITE: Hokeypres.org

EMAIL: hokeypres@gmail.org

ORGANIST: Megan Justice

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Joanne Matthews

SECRETARY: Connie Overby

LIVE STREAM OP: Tammy Seidick

December 2025



__SUNDAY

MON-
DAY


TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

	1	2 Fellowship	3	4	5	6 Emmaus Craft Show
7 Communion Food Bank	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Joyful Noise	15	16 Fellowship	17	18	19	20
21 Mission	22	23	24 Xmas Eve Service 6:30	25 Christmas 	26	27
28 Breakfast and Worship in Fellowship Hall. Time TBA	29	30	31 New Years Eve			