

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

Deacons Class of 2026

Louise Juretus
Lois Yudt
Gail Kramilich
Deb Snyder

Deacons Class of 2027

Connie Overby
Karen Sentiwany
Sue Hoke
Barbara Quigg

Deacons Class of 2028

Melody Faisetty
Gail Rhinehart
Megan Justice

First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua

Newsletter@hokeypres.org

phone: 610-264-9693

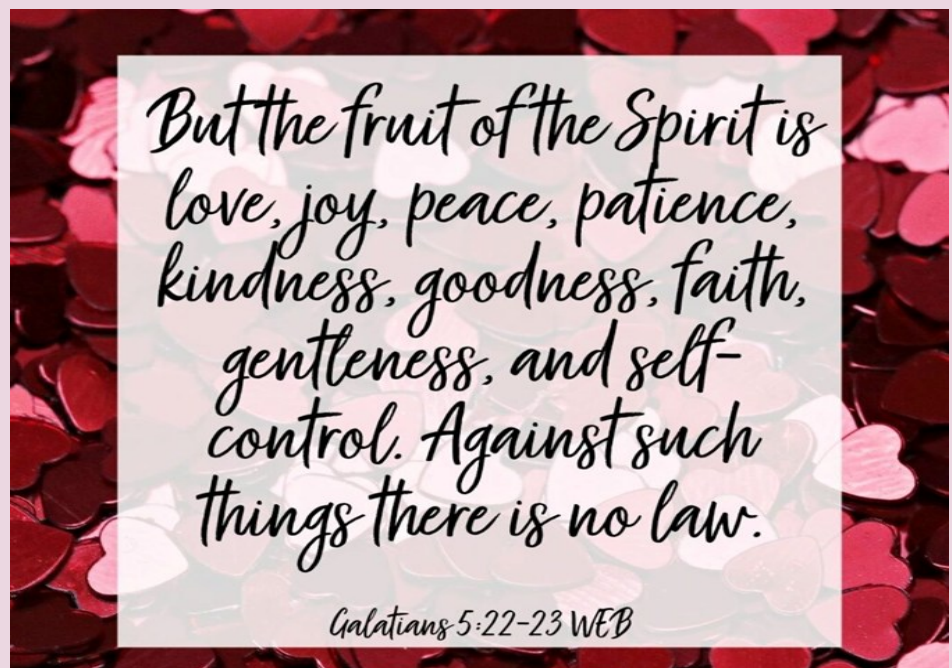
3005 S. Front Street, Whitehall P.A 18052

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Of

February 2026 Newsletter

Hokendauqua's Monthly Newsletter

Updating and sharing with you all the stories of what we are up to as a church. We invite you to share it's Contents to the community.



Ponderings from PC:

Greetings Everyone!

Here we are once again, the beginning of a New Year. I wonder how many of you have taken some time to reflect on last year and made some plans for this one that is just beginning...

although, we are almost a month into the New Year already! I know that it is during this time of each year that I sit back and take stock of where I was, where I am, and what my hopes are for the new year. This year is a bit more challenging for me though, mostly because I have so many hopes and dreams for us as a community of faith. If you have not already surmised this about me, I am a planner (if you do not realize this after looking at the upcoming scripture later in the

Newsletter...). Here's the thing, I can plan with the best of them.

Sometimes I refer to myself as the "King of Projection" because I like to project how a situation is going to come to pass and really attempt to view all sides and possible outcomes...but this can also get me into a lot of trouble. This is probably why I like the scripture at this time of year so much.

Some of my favorite passages come at this time of the year. The first one we explored this year, the story of the Magi, talk about needing to plan! Then there is the story of Christ's baptism, talk about thinking about discovering who you are ("this is my son, with whom I am well pleased.") Then as we get closer to Easter, we hear the stories of what is to come in the future, as Jesus sits with his disciples around the table, washes their feet, and establishes the meal that we still celebrate today, now there is a plan for the future.

All this is to say that I hope and pray that some of you take comfort in knowing that I too am a planner, maybe not as great as the Magi or Christ, who have impacted the world beyond anything they could have ever projected. This is also to say that as we continue into this new journey together, my hopes, dreams, desires, and especially prayers revolve around opening our hearts, our minds, and our spirits to each other's voices as well as that of the still speaking God we serve together. May we all be blessed in this year as we are a blessing to others!

God's peace and blessings, Pastor Christian



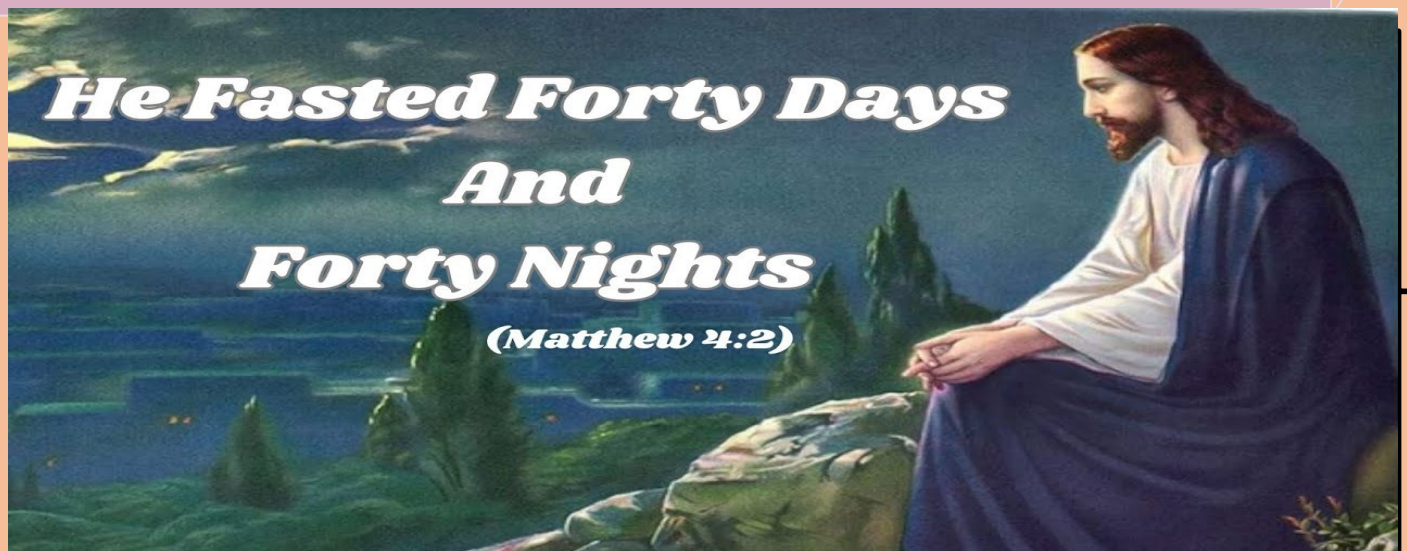
Upcoming Lenten Sermon Series:

Lent provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus. It is a time to marvel at the many blessings we received when he laid down his life for us on the cross and then rose victorious from the grave. Each service in this series dwells upon a different aspect of our greatest Friend and what each characteristic means to us as his followers and friends. We begin our study on Ash Wednesday and complete the series on Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday Service
February 18th, 2026 6:30 pm

Upcoming Scripture Readings and Sermon Titles:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>OT Reading:</u>	<u>NT Reading:</u>	<u>Sermon Title:</u>
2/01	Mic 6:1-8	1 Cor 1:18-31	Matt 5:1-12	Blessed, Really?
2/08	Isa 58:1-9	1 Cor 2:1-12	Matt 5:13-20	Hidden Light
2/15	Exo 24:12-18	2 Pet 1:16-21	Matt 17:1-9	Mission Moment: Roslyn Kuba of Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley
2/18	Joel 2:12-17	N/A	Luke 7:36-49	Savior, Servant, Friend: Forgiver
2/22	Mal 4:1-3	N/A	Matt 8:14-17	Savior, Servant, Friend: Healer
03/01	Jer 29:10-14	N/A	John 3:1-17	Savior, Servant, Friend: Listener



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,

Pentacost), 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

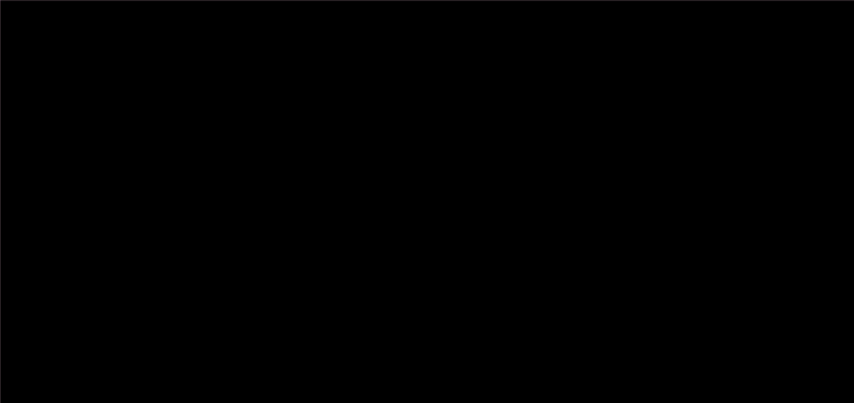
follows: Current expenses is listed under the financial report in this newsletter each

month; Benevolence is currently at \$3347.79, so we have over three years of coverage

for this account; Building fund is currently at \$6648.60.

If you have any questions about any of this, please contact me.

Financials: December 2025

MTD:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Income			
Expenses			
YTD:			
Income			
Expenses			

What's Going On

Girl Scouts continue to meet here every Monday at 6:30PM.

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 (Note: On hold right now) is held 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.

Tribute to Connie Overby

Connie Overby began serving as our church secretary on September 14, 2016. She guided us through both the pandemic and challenging years without a pastor. Now, after more than nine years with us, Connie has chosen to retire. While she will be greatly missed, we wish her happiness in her retirement and good luck on her future endeavors.

Peace and Blessings to you.
Connie,
You will be greatly missed.



***Save the date and
get out your recipes
The Annual Souper
Bowl
February 8th, 2026***

**Note :Book club
has been
discontinued until
later this year**

Greeters/Ushers

**February 1 Lenny & Leola
Andrews**

February 8 Phil & Connie Overby

**February 15 Rich & Gail
Kramlich**

**February 22 John & Melody
Faisetty**

Communion Servers

Carol Clancy

Gail Rhinehart

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA

2nd ANNUAL

Chili

COOK-OFF

CONTEST



DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 **TIME:** 5:30pm—7:30pm

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua, 3005 S. Front Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

Please make reservations by Feb. 6, 2026 @ info@hokeypres.org or 610-264-9693

The Chili Cook-off has been rescheduled to February 10th, 2026. Seating is limited. Please call 610-264-9693 to reserve your seat. We encourage everyone who is participating if possible to please carpool due to limited parking space. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to you joining us.

PRAYER
list...

We are currently updating our prayer list. Please call 610-264-9693 or send all Prayer request via email to Rebecca.montes@hokeypres.org

February Birthdays

Makenna Marth , Feb. 1st

Mary Ann Miller, Feb. 4th

Steven Mondschein ,Feb.4th

Alexander Fries, Feb.6th

Jack Hartman Brown, Feb.6th

Pamela Sheffer, Feb. 11th

Nicole Apgar, Feb. 11th

Honnell Linton, Feb.12th

Peyton George , Feb. 13th

Patricia Frankenfield ,Feb. 14

Jacob Rivera , Feb.14th

Michael McFetridge Feb. 21st

Jessica Tomon , Feb. 21st

Louise Juretus, Feb. 23rd

Michael Kelley, Feb.23rd

Bryan Cope, Feb.26th

Richard S. Kramlich Feb.27th

Robert Hartman Jr , Feb. 28th

Pastor Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

9AM to 2PM

Pastor's email:

pator@hokeypres.org

Church office Hours:

Monday through Thursday,

9 AM to Noon.

Church Phone number:

610-264-9693

Church Email: hokeypres.org