

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

# The Lamplighter Newsletter

*First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua*

*Newsletter@hokeypres.org*

*phone: 610-264-9693*

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

***MAY 2026***

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

***Church community!***

Charm is deceptive, and beauty  
is fleeting; but a woman  
who fears the Lord  
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending  
favor, kindness and love this

***Mother's Day***  
and always.



## **Ponderings from PC:**

Happy May All!

I am wondering how many of us are feeling a bit like the words of this Psalm...<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. <sup>2</sup> I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me. <sup>3</sup> I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.” *Psalm 69:1–3 (NIV):*

I know I am feeling weary and worn out with all the news that we see everywhere we turn. And on top of that, it seems like we cannot escape those difficult conversations and are even sometimes arguing amongst ourselves about the things that are going on. This troubles me so much as a Pastor. I see us (God’s creation as a whole) becoming more and more divided and wonder when our prayers will be heard. I also wonder when we will begin listening to God more than we listen to our own understanding...

Here’s the thing...no matter how much despair I feel, no matter how much I feel lost and alone, this Psalm also turns to words of comfort. In verses 33–35 the Psalmist writes, “<sup>33</sup> The Lord hears the needy and does not despise his captive people. <sup>34</sup> Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, <sup>35</sup> for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. I am reminded that God does hear us, even when it feels like we speak into the silence.” *(NIV)*

May these words bring us comfort and peace in a time of great turmoil in the world. God sees, hears, and loves despite what feels wrong in this world. May spring flowers, buds, and trees remind us of God’s ever-present love and grace! Pastor Christian

### **Upcoming Sermon Series and Scripture:**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</u>	<u>Gospel Reading:</u>	<u>Sermon Title:</u>
5/03	1 Cor 15:20-23	Luke 24:1-12	Resurrection Revelations: The Women
5/10	2 Cor 4:1-6	John 20:24-29	Resurrection Revelations: The Men
5/17	1 Cor 15:3-8	Matt 28:9-15	Resurrection Revelations: The Empty Tomb
5/24	1 Cor 12:36-13	John 20:19-23	Pentecost, the Birth of the Church
5/31	2 Cor 13:11-13	Matt 28:16-20	The Three-in-One
6/07	Genesis 12:1-9	Matt 9:9-13, 18-26	Exploring the Foundations of Our Faith I

## Guess Who?

Hi church family, and Happy Spring!

I was born and raised in Allentown, where my childhood was filled with fond memories. I grew up attending Grace Lutheran Church, where Pastor Beers was the minister. He left a lasting impression on my life, teaching me a lesson I will never forget—ask me about it sometime. As a child, I loved playing with friends under the 8th Street Bridge, creating memories that still make me smile today. I met my spouse early on in life, and together we have shared over 60 wonderful years of marriage. We are blessed to have raised three children, each of whom adds joy and meaning to our lives. Family was the reason we first came to 1st Presbyterian Church more than 30 years ago. From the moment we arrived, the warmth and welcome we received as new members made us want to stay. It quickly became a place we could call home. My favorite hymn is “Nearer, My God, to Thee.”; Pastor, perhaps we can sing it one Sunday. If I could meet anyone from the Bible, it would be David. I have always admired his courage and would love to learn how he found the strength to stand up to Goliath. In my free time, I enjoy playing the accordion, bowling, occasionally swinging golf clubs, playing cards, and visiting with friends. When asked what three things I could not live without if stranded on a deserted island, my answer was simple: my spouse, food, and a musical instrument. I always try to keep a smile on my face.

Who am I?



## *What's Going On*

### **Our Weekly Happenings:**

**N.A** meets in the Social Hall Thursdays at 7PM

**Adult Sunday School** meets Sunday after worship in the first Sunday School Room

**Sunday Funday (9 to 9:45AM)**—Classes are open to all children from the age of 5.

Contact the church office for further details

**Choir practice**—Wednesdays at 6PM, except the third Wednesday. The Choir presents an anthem during worship twice a month. For more information, contact **Joanne Matthews (jlmattthews123@aol.com)**

**Fellowship Group**—meets every first and third Tuesday of the month.

This month fellowship will meet **Tuesday May 12th** at “Yummy Bowl”

located at: **2544 Mac Arthur Rd., Whitehall, Pa 18052**

The third Tuesday meets at the church for fellowship and crafts. All are welcome!”

**Girl Scouts—Mondays at 6:30pm**

### **A Mothers’/Fathers’ Day Luncheon**

All are invited to join us for a special luncheon in honor of all of our mothers and fathers. Join us on May 31<sup>st</sup> after worship for some food, laughs, and a whole lot of fellowship!

### **Father’s Day at the Iron Pigs :**

**On Sunday, June 21 Tickets for this event are sold out!**

### **Family Fun Night II:**

Come out and join Pastor on **May 8, at 6:30 PM**, for an evening of family fun. We will gather to play some games, and Popcorn will be provided. Bring along a favorite game and a drink.

**“Working Events 2026 Calendar:  
Community Picnic Day: 7/25**

## **Sunday Funday**

Sunday School or as we call it, Sunday Funday, is held every Sunday from 9:00am-9:45am. Do you want to know what your children are learning? This month we have just finished with Lent, Easter and waiting now for Pentecost. After learning more about the crucifixion and the Ascension of Jesus I thought it would be a good idea to go to the "way back room" and discuss where and why Passover came to be. We learned of the mean Pharaoh and the 10 Plagues God delivered to the people of Egypt. We also spoke of the angel of death passing over the doors of the Jewish people. Each part of the Seder meal was explained. Our Sunday school provides a safe, fun, environment to help your kids build a strong faith foundation. Classes are open to all children from the age of 5.

## **Bible study**

Held on Mondays 10:00am-11:00am

Discussing 1 Corinthians, Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. This book contains the popular passage utilized in many marriage ceremonies

"Love is patient, love is kind ...it bears all things."

The church in Corinth was experiencing conflict and division within it's congregation.

Our study is from the PW Horizons Bible study,

*"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other"*

We currently have 8 members and no deep theological background is needed. This is a time to learn and chat in a safe place and share our thoughts on one of the important books on the bible on the conflicts of the early Christian churches. If you care to join Please contact the church office or email Eileen at :

[eileentremblay3@gmail.com](mailto:eileentremblay3@gmail.com).

## The Questioner's Bible Study

*Have you ever questioned what you read or heard read in scripture? Have you never studied the Bible or are just curious why we should study the Bible? Then this Bible Study is for you! Over the summer, Pastor will gather with those who are NEW to Bible Study or have ever questioned what they read. **Please contact Pastor to reserve your seat!***

### Video Study Series:

*Based upon the success of our last video study, Pastor Christian will be starting another video study based upon the **TV series with Morgan Freeman titled, "The Story of God" sometime in May.** Watch future bulletins and the newsletter for more information as it becomes available. This will be a six-part series done weekly and participants will be asked to find and watch each episode in its entirety before we gather as we will be able to only watch a portion of each episode when we gather to discuss what we believe vs. other world religions.*

Here is the schedule of sessions:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Session #:</u>	<u>Episode to View:</u>	<u>Discussion Topic:</u>
5/13	Session 1:	Episode 1	Beyond Death
5/20	Session 2	Episode 2	Apocalypse
5/27	Session 3	Episode 3	Who is God?
6/03	Session 4	Episode 4	Creation
6/10	Session 5	Episode 5	Why Does Evil Exist?
6/17	Session 6	Episode 6	The Power of Miracles

# **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.

## **In search of Volunteers to help with Bulletin Boards**

**We are looking to streamline the management of our shared bulletin boards to ensure they remain organized and updated. We would like to know if you have been managing them recently. Are you interested in taking on this role? Please contact :**

Rebecca, Church Secretary 610-264-9693 or via email [rebecca.montes@hokeypres.org](mailto:rebecca.montes@hokeypres.org)

<b><u>Greeters &amp; Ushers</u></b>		<b><u>Communion Servers</u></b>	
May 3rd	<b><i>Susan Hoke &amp; Gail Rhinehart</i></b>	May 3rd	<b><i>Tom &amp; Carol Steigerwald</i></b>
May 10th	<b><i>Donna Fink &amp; Donna Pontician</i></b>	May 24th	<b><i>Melody &amp; John Faisetty</i></b>
May 17th	<b><i>Lenny Burkert &amp; Leola Andrews</i></b>	<b><u>Communion Set-up/Clean-up</u></b>	
May 24th	<b><i>Karen &amp; Dave Sentiwany</i></b>	May 3rd	<b><i>Carol Clancy</i></b>
May 31st	<b><i>Carol Clancy &amp; Sue Butchinski</i></b>	May 24th	<b><i>John &amp; Melody Faisetty</i></b>



## May Birthdays

Phil Overby	May 2
Ryan Pontician	May 7
Joyce Wheeler	May 9
John Faisetty	May 10
Randy Cope	May 11
Andrew Smicker	May 13
Tim Snyder	May 16
Donald Heiney	May 17
Kimerly Bydlon	May 18
Brooke Petrasovits	May 27
Erin Petrasovits	May 28
Karen Bydlon	May 29
Sue Hoke	May 30

### **Outreach Project Family Promise**

**This outreach involves the Family Promise organization. They will be the recipient. Their organization supports children and families experiencing homelessness.**

**Items needed are the following:**

**Women's deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, baby wipes and size 5 diapers. There will be a bin located on the stage in fellowship hall to drop off these items if you'd like to donate.**

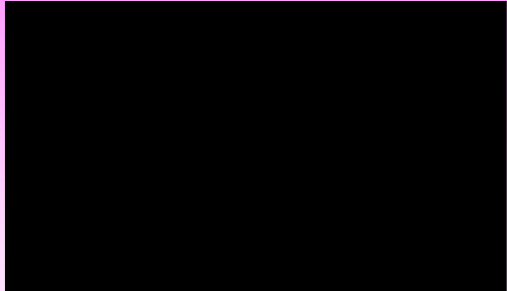
## *Financials- April 2026*

**MTD      Actual      Budget      Over/(Under)**

**Income**

**Expenses**

**Net**

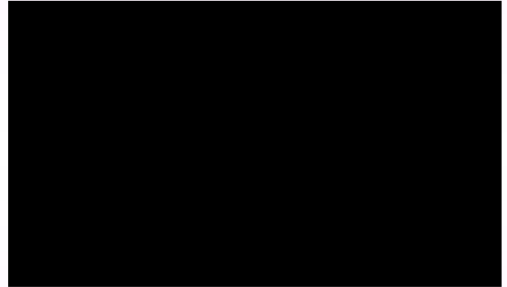


**YTD      Actual      Budget      Over/(Under)**

**Income**

**Expenses**

**Net**



### **Graduate Sunday**

*Graduate Sunday will be celebrated June 14th. Please let the church office know if you have any family members who are graduating or have graduated this year. Let us know the school and degree received*

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am—Noon

Phone Number: 610-264-9693

Website: Hokeypres.org

Email: hokeypres@gmail.org

Pastor: Rev. Christian Creyer

Email: pastor@hokeypres.org

Organist: Megan Justice

Choir Director: Joanne Matthews

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Food bank</i> <i>Communion</i> Adult Sunday School	4 Bible study (10A) Girl Scouts (6:30P)	5	6 Choir Practice (6P)	7 N.A. (7P)	8 Family Game Night (6:30P)	9
10 <i>Joyful noise</i> Mother's Day	11 Bible study (10A) Girl Scouts (6:30P)	12 <i>Fellowship</i> Lunch 1pm— Yummy Bowl	13 Choir Practice (6P)	14 N.A. (7P)	15	16
17 <i>Missions</i> Adult Sunday School	18 Bible study (10A) Girl Scouts (6:30P)	19 Fellowship (1P—at Church)	20 Session meeting (6:30P)	21 N.A. (7P)	22	23
24 <i>Deacons</i> <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School <i>Memorial Day Svc in Triangle</i>	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> Bible study (10A) Girl Scouts (6:30P)	26	27 Choir Practice (6P)	28 N.A. (7P)	29	30
31 <i>Christian Ed</i> Mother & Father's Day Luncheon After Worship		<b>NOTES:</b> N.A. = Narcotics Anonymous				

**First Presbyterian Church of  
Hokendauqua**

3005 S. Front Street

Whitehall, PA 18052

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Pastor: Rev. Christian Creyer

Email: [pastor@hokeypres.org](mailto:pastor@hokeypres.org)

Organist: Megan Justice

Choir Director: Joanne Matthews

Live Stream Operator:

Tammy Seidick



**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.hokeypres.org](http://www.hokeypres.org)**

***MORE PEOPLE BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST  
IN ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS***