



THE LAMPLIGHTER NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA

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APRIL 2024

Elders Class of 2024

Sue Butchinski
Joyce Wheeler
John Hrizuk
Kevin Justice

Elders Class of 2025

Gail Rhinehart
Scott Kramlich
John Faisetty
Jennifer Hartman

Elders Class of 2026

Sally Heffner
Carol Clancy
Eileen Tremblay

Deacons Class of 2024

Troy Guzenski
Sue Hoke
Samara Mebane
Karen Sentiwany

Deacons Class of 2025

Melody Faisetty
Maddie Stettler
Gail Kramlich

Deacons Class of 2026

Louise Juretus
Deb Snyder

Dear Church Family,

Easter Blessings be with you, your family, and friends, and neighbors, our nation and all nations.

Since beginning to serve as your Pastor on February 18, I've been visiting and listening to some of the stories of the lives of church members. As with my own family, members' stories include many wonderful, God-blessed times; I've also heard of times of great difficulty and loss. Isn't it extraordinary how we and our families have weathered tough seasons over the years (and continue to face storms of one kind or another currently and forecast for the months ahead).

So, as people of faith, it should come as no surprise that, periodically, we have some questions about where God is in the midst of the painful times of our lives.

I wish I had the answers to our faithful questions, solutions for our aching hearts, paths forward that could guarantee complete healing, perfect peace, no more problems. I don't. (I remember thinking when I was a teenager that I would have figured out life's questions and struggles by the time I was 60-years-old – hasn't happened!)

However, I believe the realities of Jesus' own struggles up to his crucifixion, followed by the Resurrection miracle of New Life, offer us encouragement on bad days and good days alike.

Somehow, even though Jesus was God from the beginning (John 1:1-5), he experienced ridicule, rejection by his own neighbors and religious leaders, and was tortured and then hung on a cross to die. He didn't live in a divine bubble of protection, comfort, and one simple, successful, smiley day after another. In other words, he, Immanuel, "God-With-Us, experienced the worst the world has to offer any and every other human being who has ever lived. And yet, Jesus was in prayerful, powerful touch with God's loving, inspiring presence even in the Garden of Gethsemane and on Golgotha.

Knowing the hardships of Jesus' life doesn't make our difficult days disappear; but quite possibly, it demonstrates just how much God understands and empathizes with us and others, and offers us help even in the midst of suffering "because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). We can't avoid difficulties, no matter how hard we try, no matter how good we are. But the Spirit is the most accepting, helpful, affirming, constructive Counselor imaginable. Spirit, help us and all your children across the face of the Earth.

And there is Easter—Christ's Resurrection from the dead! God creates HEALING and HOPE and FULNESS OF LIFE out of suffering, and frustration, and death. These are some of the Easter Promises contained in Romans 8: "the Spirit helps us in our weakness," "God works for the good... of all those who have been called according to God's purpose," and nothing can "separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." May it be so!

Joy in the Journey,
Pastor Chuck



MTD:

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income			
Expenses			
Income			
Expenses			



Per capita apportionment for 2024 is \$48 per member.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Adult Sunday School meets Sunday after our Church service. Info: DebRBartho2@gmail.com

Children's Sunday School: TBA

Book Club: Meets every Monday at 10am. Info: Rolley717@gmail.com

Tuesday Fellowship: Tuesday April 2 Lunch at Catty Corner. April 16 Crafts at the church. Info: twinangels526@gmail.com

Deacons: The Deacons continue to do the work of Christ's heart for our congregation and our community. Info: susanhoke1412@gmail.com

Deacon's Meeting: April 7th at 9AM.

Choir: Practice is Wednesday at 6:30. Info: Mjustice395@gmail.com

Pastor Chuck, Fellowship/Group Life and our Deacons are planning a Men's Breakfast, Ladies Luncheon

UPDATING THE PRAYER LIST

Please contact the office after you review the prayer list and let us know what names may be removed.

UPDATING

dreamstime.com

ID 87821070 © Lookinell

Pastor Chuck Information

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30AM to 11:30AM.

Email: Pastor@hokeypres.org

Phone: 814-696-4687

If you would like to meet with Pastor Monts please call in advance to make sure he is not on a pastoral visit or an off-site meeting.



April Birthdays :

April 1: Adam Faisetty

April 2: Wm. Martin

April 3: Janine Hartman Brown

April 4: Richard Bowman, Jr
Bill Tremblay

April 8: Elliot Waters

April 9: Megan Walters

April 10: Kyle Kramlich

April 11: Jonah Hartman Brown

April 12: Shirley Adams

April 15: Nicole Matthews

April 16: Marie Lychak

April 19: A. James Shedlauskas
Danny Seidick

April 20: Brian Hartman
Wm. Brown

April 25: Monica Snyder
Shannon Walters

April 26: Leola Andrews

April 28: Nicole Goshey



From the Deacons:

Please let the office know if you have any graduates in your family this year, what school they are graduating from and any future plans they may have.

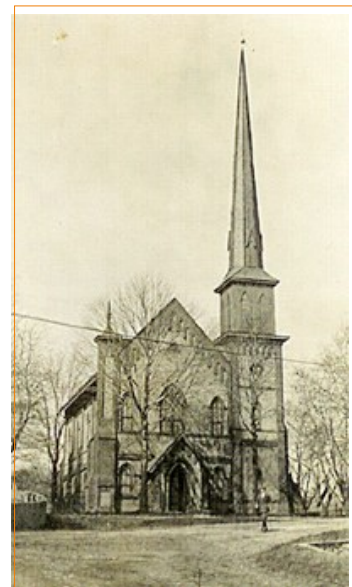


DEACON'S MEETING: A meeting has been scheduled for all Deacon's on April 7th at 9AM. For more info please contact Sue Hoke at susanhoke14112@gmail.com

Comfort for the Grieving Heart

Provided by St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement Program

We never lose our loved ones. They accompany us; they don't disappear from our lives. We are merely in different rooms." Paulo Coelho



Original church photo.

Michael Farber and Ally Silva happily announce the birth of their precious baby girl, Airyana Rae on March 3. Airyana is the granddaughter of Dawn Farber and the great granddaughter of Don DeWalt and his late wife, Esther. Blessings to all of them!

For 75 years OGHS has partnered with others to take action to share God's love. So where does this FISH come into play? This Fish project is on-going. The Sunday School children and the Congregation are asked to put their change in their fish. Your fish (hopefully fat and happy and heavy) will be collected around Thanksgiving. Christian Ed will choose the gift they want to give toward the Presbyterian (1)Disaster, (2) Hunger or(3)Self-development of people around the world. Using the Presbyterian Giving Catalog the children will be able to choose from 40+ gifts such as buying a pair of goats, piglets, oxen and a plow, cows, chickens etc. So, don't forget to Color and Name your fish and return him in November.



Planned Breakfast and Lunch

Men's Breakfast Fellowship at the church

+ Wednesday, April 17, 8:30am - 9:30am
 + Chuck's homemade pancakes & fresh fruit
 + Please consider inviting a friend!

Women's Luncheon Fellowship at the church

+ Friday, April 26, Noon - 1pm
 + Chuck's Homemade Quiche
 + Please consider inviting a friend!

Breakfast with our Zephyr Neighbors

+ Thursday, May 2, 9:30am - 10:30am
 + Chuck will be making the breakfast but it would be wonderful to have some helping hands and friendly spirits in serving the residents.
 This will take place at the Zephyr apts.

The question is "Can you find what important "R" word appears in the Bible about 600 times?"

The answer is "Righteousness or Righteous".



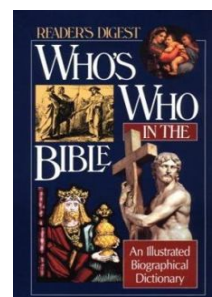
Above is a photo of some of the members of our Tuesday Fellowship Group when they met for lunch at the Copperhead Grill on March 4th. From Left is Connie Overby, Karen Sentiwany, Sandy Moran, Carol Clancy and Sally Heffner. The next lunch is planned for April 2 at the Catty Corner. Everyone is welcome!

The book we are highlighting this month is *Readers Digest Who's Who in the Bible*. The pages of the Bible are filled with fascinating men and women, literally thousands of them, saints and sinners, the faithful and the foolish, lovers and liars, giants and generals, priests and prophets, the brave and the cowardly, heathens and healers, the pious and the pitiful. Sorting them out has too often been the task of scholars—until the publication of this beautifully illustrated, clearly written, easy-to-use book from Readers Digest.

What made Abraham, a peaceful man, become a warrior?

What is the longest name in the Old Testament?

To whom did Luke address his Gospel?





Did you know?

You can view recordings of all worship services on our church website at hokeypres.org. The recording of the service will be posted on the website within 24 hours of the service..

You may also view our church newsletters on our church website at hokeypres.org. There is an archive of past newsletters as well.

Joyful Noise Collection this Sunday School year will be taken for the Food Bank till June then will switch over to the new Fish Bank Project.

Thank you to all who signed up for fellowship duties and bringing all sorts of yummy cakes and pastries and fruit to share after our worship services. Please remember there is a sign-up sheet in the hall to claim your date.

Don't forget! We are the PASTA Church! We are continuing to collect pasta for the Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative. So far we have met our goal every month. Our example has encouraged a few other churches to become the tuna church, the cereal church. Keep up the good work!

April Pulpit Supply

April 21, 2024: Rev. Kim



The Hokendauqua Sweet Squad is at it again. Home made Easter candy—it doesn't get any better than that.

Hey Ladies!! When is the Christmas Candy ordering blank going up on the bulletin board???





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.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Janet Bloszinsky | 5998 Coplay Rd. Apt. #1, Coplay, PA 18037 |
| Donald DeWalt | 276 Circle Drive, Catasauqua, PA 18032 |
| Linda DeWalt | Cedarbrook, 350 S. Cedarbrook Rd., Room 322, Allentown, PA 18104 |
| Dolly Kramlich | Above & Beyond at the Knights, 1545 Greenleaf St., #206, Allentown, PA 18102 |
| Dick & Marie Lychak | Gino J. Merli Veteran's Center, 401 Penn Ave., Scranton, PA 18503 |
| Dorothy Somers | 3000 Fellowship Drive, Rm 102, Whitehall, PA 18052 |
| Jim Shedlauskas | Cedar Crest Post Acute, 1265 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Room 312B, Allentown 18103 |

Deborah Altorfer

David Hertzog

Ben Sammak

Stephanie Baily

Matthew Hess

Linda Schlosser

People suffering from depression.

Karen Becker

Nicky Hudack

Rowan Sharrar

Bedocs Family

Shelly Hillpot

Jim Shedlauskas

People who are suffering because of the virus.

Krista Champagne & Family

Bill Jodry

Joanne Sienkiewicz

Elizabeth Conners

Joe Kanusky

Carol Steigerwalt

People who are suffering because of the wars.

Kathy Cutter

Raymond Kern

Jane Tremblay

Michael Dobry

Barbara Knarr

Donna Walck

Doreen

Linda Kramaranko

Carol Wal

Dolly Dougherty

Rosemary Kravenko

Mike Woodling

Due Family

Caroline Laudhorn

Vance Woodley

Pat Frankenfield

Jaden Leiby

Alisa Gashi

Marie Lychak

Peter Gilbert

Richard Lychak

Steve Glick

Ivy Lynch

Raina Gomez

Joe Macrina

Maria Gontkosky

Juliet Malay

Charlie Grim

Todd Messner

Joey Groller

People in the Military

Larry Hein

Angie Pontician

Louise Hein

Jacob Rivera

Pamela Henckel

Josie Sabella



Many, many thanks to the Fellowship/Group Life committee, chaired by Sue Butchinski and Sally Heffner, for planning the wonderful gathering to welcome Pastor Chuck and his dear wife, Deb. The food was wonderful and the fellowship was divine. A good time was had by all! Many members commented on this, everyone was smiling and chatting and laughing. It was almost like the good old days!

Welcome

**REMEMBER TO
SAVE YOUR
REDNER TAPES,**

You may find the container in Fellowship Hall. The Redner profit goes toward the area food banks.

APRIL 2024



SUN. MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1 Book Club 10AM. Girl Scouts 6:30PM	2 Tues Fel- lowship Catty Corner 1 PM	3 Choir 6:30PM	4 NA 7PM	5	6
7 2nd Sunday of East- er. <i>Communion</i> Food Bank Sunday. Deacon's meet 9AM	8 Book Club 10AM. Girl Scouts 6:30	9	10 Choir 6:30PM	11 NA 7PM	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of East- er. Joyful Noise Sunday	15 Book Club 10AM. Girl Scouts 6:30PM	16 Tues. Fellowship Crafts at Church 1PM	17 Mem's Breakfast 8:30AM Choir 6:30PM	18 NA 7PM	19	20 Base- ment/ kitchen rental 6pm to 9pm.
21 4th Sunday of East- er. Rev. Kim	22 Book Club 10AM. Girl Scouts 6:30PM	23	24 Choir 6:30PM	25 NA 7PM	26 Wom- en's Lunch- eon 1PM	27
28 5th Sunday of East- er. Deacon's Sunday	29 Book Club 10AM. Girl Scouts 6:30PM	30				