



THE LAMPLIGHTER NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA

610-264-9693

FEBRUARY

EMAIL: HOKEYPRES@GMAIL.COM

2021

WEBSITE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA

Elders Class of 2021

*****WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK*****

Sue Butchinski

Hello everyone!

MaryAnn Miller

I know it was starting to seem like we were never going to see the end of 2020, yet we finally made it. I've heard different reactions to the New Year from different people, and it's interesting how those reactions swing wildly between "Oh thank GOD, it's a new year! I couldn't wait to be done with 2020!" and "Eh. Things aren't that much different than they were. Wake me when the pandemic is over."



Melody Faisetty

John Faisetty

Elders Class of 2022

Carl Moran

Sandy Moran

Barbara Quigg

Carol Snyder

Elders Class of 2023

Sally Heffner

Tammy Seidick

David Sentiwany

Eileen Tremblay

Deacons Class of 2021

Donna Pontician

Samara Mebane

Karen Sentiwany

Carol Steigerwalt

Deacons Class of 2022

Carol Clancy

Megan Justice

Maddie Stettler

Jayne Stevens

Deacons Class of 2023

Louise Juretus

John Rowland

Karen Bydlon

Chris Mondschein

And as I've been thinking about that, and about how I also feel about having made it through the minefield of uncertainty that was 2020, I started thinking about how it must all seem to God. This is the first time in recent memory, and definitely in MY memory, that something has happened that has affected the entire world. Literally everyone, in one way or another, was affected by the virus in 2020. And when you add that to all the usual problems like politics, the economy, the environment, etc. it starts to seem insurmountable. And that's why 2020 seemed to stretch on for so long – because it WAS long.

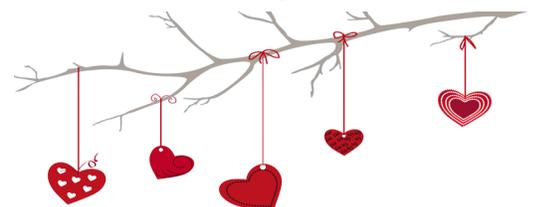
But not to God. God doesn't operate on our time table. What is a minute or an hour or a day or a month or a year to us, isn't to God. Every moment to God is the present moment. We like to say that God is already in the future, and that's true as far as we can understand it, but to God there is no future and there is no past, it's just this moment.

So when God tells us in Isaiah that he is making all things new, that's right now. Every moment of every day has something new in it, a new blessing given to us by our Creator. We never have to wait for January 1, or Monday, or the first of the month to hit the reset button. With God, every moment is new. Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

John Updike once wrote "This morning has never occurred before," and truer words may never have been uttered. Every moment with God is a gift, a fresh start, a new beginning.

Love and blessings to you all,

Pastor Christy



A Letter from Session:

Covid-19 is now surging at the highest level of the pandemic. Hospitals fear that they will be completely overwhelmed by the end of the year. On December 2, 2020 Chairman Robert Redford told the US Chamber of Commerce: "The reality is that December, January and February are going to be rough times. I actually believe that they are going to be the most difficult time in the public health history of this nation because of the stress to the health system:.. In a December 9, 2020 letter, Lehigh Presbytery Leader Rev. Rhonda Kruse stated: "While the decision is up to each congregation's Session, we believe that it is critical to consider suspending in-person indoor gatherings immediately and continue to worship virtually until the infection level is reduced". Based on this recommendation the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua has decided to extend our church closure until further notice.

Thank you, John Faisetty



February Zoom Trivia Night: More information to come



Pastor Christy is continuing to work from home until further notice, but she will be resuming her "office hours" of 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and can be reached via phone or text on her church cell number: 484- 597-2005. She can be reached at any time (phone or email) for matters that are urgent.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES: Taking orders from February 1 through to the 8th.

Call Melissa Dise, Troop Leader, at 610-297-1864 to order your cookies. Choose from **Toast-Yay the new cinnamon and icing cookie, or S'mores, Lemon-Ades, Shortbread, Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Patties, Caramel Delites, or Peanut Butter Sandwich.** Cookies are **\$4.00** per box. Cookies can be picked up from **5PM until 6:30 PM in our church parking lot on February 15th.** If you can't do either the Girl Scouts will deliver them to you.



Come and join us for an hour of fellowship and fun! You can color, work on a craft, journal, knit or crochet, whatever you would like. You can even just sit and enjoy conversation and friendship. We meet through zoom every Friday at 2:00pm. Email Sandy at twinangels526@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Property Committee Update: Work to the church building exterior has been paused for the winter. Already it looks great! Take a drive by the church if you have not seen it lately. Thank you again to all who have contributed (and continue to contribute) for the work to continue on this special project.



Pastor Christy is starting an online group this winter called “Body Prayer.” Body Prayer is a form of prayer through movement, a practice that dates back to Medieval England. Body Prayer can be done by anyone, at any fitness level, even seated. The group will meet once a week (on Zoom until we are able to safely meet in person), on Thursdays in February and March from 4:00 – 5 p.m. If you’re interested in participating, please let Pastor Christy know.



CHURCH FINANCES FOR Nov. 2020 Sue Butchinski, Church Treasurer

MTD:	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/UNDER
Giving	\$15043.17	\$11287.69	\$3755.48 Over
Expenses	\$11172.68	\$10439.11	\$ 733.57 Over
YTD:			
Giving	\$131690.85	\$120834.47	\$10856.38 Over
Expenses	\$117631.94	\$121150.49	\$3518.56- Under

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to our church budget.

PER CAPITA FOR 2021: The Per Capita for 2021 has stayed at \$39.13.

PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

The more engagement our church Facebook page receives, the more Facebook will make our page visible to followers and friends. So, take a minute to visit our page at www.facebook.com/HokeyPres and make sure you “like” the page, “follow” and “turn on” your notifications.

Sunday School Zoom Ses-

sions: Did you know that our Sunday School students are meeting twice a month on Zoom? Join our Sunday School teachers on the 2nd and the 4th Sunday of every month at 9am for a short lesson and craft. Please contact hokeypres@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with the Sunday School Program.



We will be emailing the Annual Report before our Annual Meeting on February 21st. If you do not have email we will be delivering the report to you.



It’s Tax Time:

You may pick up your annual giving statements at the church on Wednesday mornings.

Offering Options:

Mail: Send to the church mailing address: 3005 S. Front Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

PayPal: Go to church website and click on "Make An Offering" link or go to: bit.ly/HokeyPresPayPal

You do not need a PayPal account. PayPal accepts all major credit and debit cards. *Please note your giving envelope number in the "Notes" section on the PayPal page.*

Drop off: Just drop your envelope thru the mail slot in the front door of the Sunday School wing.

Website: Visit hokeypres.org for any news updates, worship service videos, and an archive of church newsletters.

Livestream of online Sunday worship service: Go to www.facebook.com/HokeyPres and click on "Videos". The live video will show up around 9:55 AM with a red "Live" graphic on the video image. Comment on the video to let us know you are present and say hi to fellow congregants!

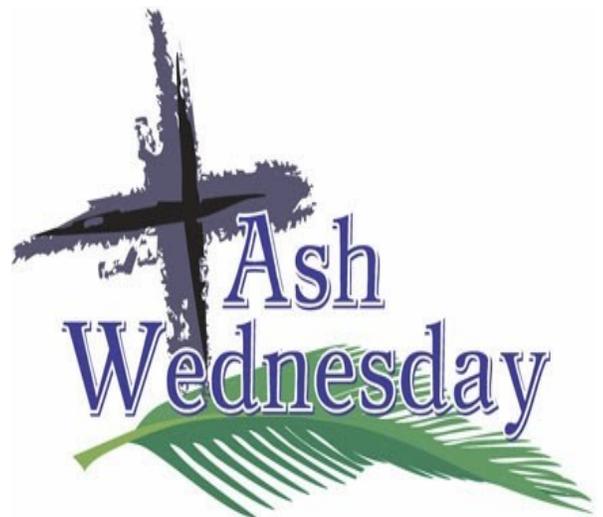
Missed a worship service Missed a worship service? All videos from March 2020 onward are available for viewing on the church website at hokeypres.org

Looking for people to share worship music for our online church services. Do you have a piece of worship music (religious music only, we don't have licensing permission to livestream secular music) you would like to share during an upcoming online church service? Share your singing voice or instrument playing by sending a message to Pastor Christy at revchristyk@gmail.com and let's get that coordinated. You can record the music piece at home and Pastor Christy can play the music during the online service.

Tammy Seidick, Session Communication Committee

We received a letter from the Whitehall Food Pantry:

On behalf of the Board of the Whitehall Food Pantry, we would like to express our gratitude for the continued support that you provide to the Whitehall Food Pantry. In this difficult time of the pandemic, there are so very many people living with uncertainty and in need of the basics. We make purchases weekly to help supplement the food that we get from Second Harvest and your contribution is a huge help. We pray that 2021 will bring healing and peace in this time of sadness. Your generosity and commitment to our mission provides the assurance that God's love continues to help those people in need. Blessings, **Judy Ehret for The Whitehall Food Pantry.**



Prayer Requests: Do you have a joy to share or a concern to pray over? Please email prayer requests to Pastor Christy at revchristy@gmail.com during the week and they will be included in an upcoming online Sunday service. Thank you!

We are organizing an email list! We need an efficient and quick way to reach all the members of our congregation and friends of our church. If you have an email and would welcome news and announcements via email, please send your email address to hokeypres@gmail.com along with your name.

February Birthdays:

Feb. 4: MaryAnn Miller

Steven Mondschein

Feb. 6: Jack Hartman Btrown

Feb. 7: Noah Mebane

Feb. 8: Michael Salvaggi

Feb. 13: Peyton George

Tatyana Alston

Feb. 14: Pat Frankenfield

Feb. 21: Jessica Tomon

Feb. 23: Louise Juretus

Feb. 27: Scott Kramlich

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



SESSION SNIPPETS FROM MELODY: Pastor Christy always opens each Session meeting with prayer, uplifting message and/or things to ponder. This month's quote from John Updike was interesting: "This morning has never occurred before." It tied in with her message that every moment to God is the PRESENT.

The following were elected officers of Session: John Faisetty, President; MaryAnn Miller, Vice President, Sue Butchinski, Treasurer; and John Hrizuk, Clerk.

Thanks to all of you for your faithful tithes and offerings during these many months. It is comforting to know that when things come up like plumbing issues, boiler inspections, and general monthly bills, we don't have to worry about funds being low.

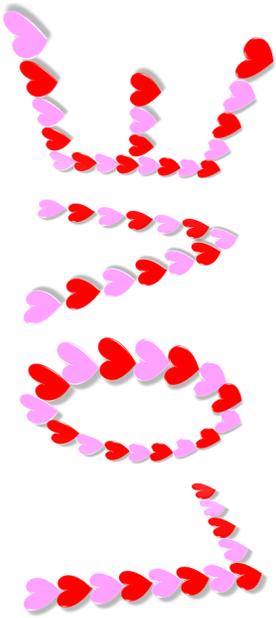
Thanks to our dedicated Sunday school teachers. Gail Rhinehart, Carol Snyder, and Eileen Tremblay. They share the good news with their students twice a month via ZOOM and have lots of fun doing it. All Session members agreed that we miss seeing the kids in person every week.

Our annual meeting will be held February 21 via ZOOM. That Sunday's worship service will also be streamed as usual.

Sue reported that over \$300 was made from the soup sale. Soups were delicious and perfect for these cold winter days. Thanks to Sue and Sally Heffner and Gail Kramlich, not only for making them, but for giving a lot of us a free day when we didn't have to prepare a meal ourselves. Proceeds will go to the building fund (painting project).

Speaking of the painting project, its finalization was discussed as well as landscaping and the Memorial Garden when the painting is complete.

Things to look forward to: new members joining, Easter flower sale...so stay tuned!



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.

Margie Arehart	2756 Rolling Green Place, Macungie, PA 18062
Janet and Walter Bloszinsky	214 Church Street, Catasauqua, PA 18032
Esther and Donald DeWalt	276 Circle Drive, Catasauqua, PA 18032
Linda DeWalt	Cedarbrook, 350 S. Cedarbrook Rd., Room 322, Allentown, PA 18104
Mae Hart	Devon House, 1930 Bevin Drive, Allentown, PA 18103
Dolly Kramlich	Above & Beyond at the Knights, 1545 Greenleaf St., #206 Allentown, PA 18102
Mrs. Jane Periera	5575 Green Pond Road, Easton, PA 18045
Edith Scheirer	Atria Asst. Liv, 1745 W. Macada Rd., Rm. 291, Bethlehem, PA 18017
Dorothy Sommers	Fellowship Manor Unit 273, 3010 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall, PA 18052
Jim Shedlauskas	3021 Rosewood Court, Whitehall, PA 18052

Deborah Altorfer

Peter Gilbert

Jaden Leiby

Donna Walck

Stephanie Baily

Rebekah Gilbert

Ivy Lynch

Carol Walker

Barbara Bartholomew

Steve Glick

Juliet Malay

Mike Woodling

Karen Becker

Raina Gomez

Dave Martin

Vance Woodley

Cory Borger

Maria Gontkosky

Kathy Micio

Yudt Family

Lacey Bowman

Charlie Grim

Oroskey Family

Roland Yudt

Bonnie Brandmeir

Guzenski Family

Jane Periera

Children at the Mission of the Good Shepherd,

Valerie Chandler

Glenn Harris

People in the Military

People suffering from depression.

and family

Pamela Henckel

Angie Pontician

Elizabeth Conners

David Hertzog

Jacob Rivera

People who are suffering because of the virus.

Kathy Cutter

Matthew Hess

Linda Schlosser

Esther DeWalt

Nicky Hudack

Becky Shreck

Michael Dobry

Joe Kanusky

Joshua Scoble

Doreen

Linda Kramaranko

Rowan Sharrar

Dolly Dougherty

Rosemary Kravenko

Jim Shedlauskas

Brenda Feiller

Judy Kresley

Joanne Sienkiewicz



Church News!

Interested in printed copies of Pastor Christy's Sunday sermons? Please call the church office and leave a message with your name and mailing address. We will send you printed copies.

It's A Whole Different Experience: Have you ever taken the time to look at our church website? Our church newsletter is there and it is a whole different experience reading it on line—it's in **color** and the photos are **crystal clear**. You might even like it better than the paper version—by switching to the on line version you would be saving the church the cost of a stamp, paper, copier toner etc. Let the office know your preference.



February 2021

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Groundhog Day		Book Club 10AM Body Prayer 4PM	Fellowship 2 PM on Zoom	
7 5th Sunday after Epiphany-Communion (Annual mtg. on 21)	8	9	10	11 Book Club 10AM Body Prayer 4PM	12 Fellowship 2 PM on Zoom	13
14 Transfiguration of the Lord (Annual mtg. on 21)	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 	18 Book Club 10AM Session 7PM Body Prayer 4PM	19 Fellowship 2 PM on Zoom	20
21 1st Sunday in Lent ANNUAL MTG.	22	23	24	25 Book Club 10AM Body Prayer 4PM	26 Fellowship 2 PM on Zoom	27
28 2nd Sunday in Lent						