



THE LAMPLIGHTER NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF HOKENDAUQUA

Jan. 2025

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
Karen Sentiwany

Deacons Class of 2025

Melody Faisetty
Maddie Stettler
Gail Kramlich

Deacons Class of 2026

Louise Juretus
Deb Snyder

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Dear Church Family:

Fulfilling this Scripture passage in your midst was one of the least complicated, most joyful and enriching seasons of my 35 years of pastoral ministry!

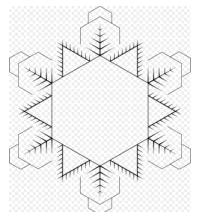
Thank you all -- those who worshiped in person and those who worshiped by tuning in online; those who served with me as Elders and Deacons; and those who served with me as Part-Time staff. Special thanks goes to Connie for being the one to put up with me and my idiosyncrasies three days a week! Connie possesses gifts of great patience, flexibility, and creativity. Special thanks to Megan for her very beautiful and special musical accompaniment (as well as her gifts of patience and flexibility as well).

The Elders were also gracious with me as they responded to many of my suggestions and requests with open-minds, hearts, and hands, especially when it came to care-giving to the surrounding community and committing to tithe out-the-door based on the tithes and offerings of friends and members of the church.

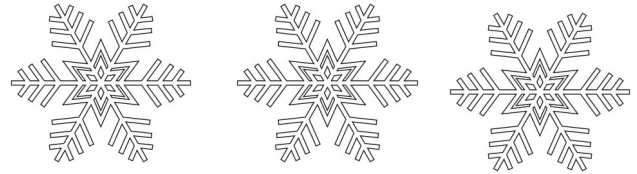
Finally, thank you all for your generous financial support towards me and Deb that began in 2023, when you donated a whopping \$3000 in support of our year of volunteer service in Malawi! And as I mentioned during the reception yesterday following worship, the salary you paid me throughout 2024 allowed us to continue donating to needy people and deserving service organizations in Malawi. To top it off, the church just gifted us an additional \$1,100, in appreciation for my pastoral services, which will go towards the cost of drilling and constructing a clean water well in a village called Kasungu, which Deb and I are partnering with in 2025. (The village has a Malawian Presbyterian Church that is pastored by a friend and brother in Christ, Rev. Voice Maxwell, who is in his first year of pastoral ministry in a small remote village that does not have a clean water well; whose church is not fully built (even though construction of this church began in 1989! but this just goes to show how little money villagers and churches have at their disposal); who is not adequately compensated for his pastoral service, again because the villagers have so very little discretionary money; and, yet, Rev. Voice has already started to share God's goodness with those in need by donating to them eggs, chicks, piglets, plus, having the church provide a Nursery Care program so moms can more easily work in the fields. Deb and I hope to resurrect our Facebook pages connected to Malawi in hopes of increasing the numbers of individuals and congregations who will join us in partnering with Rev. Voice and the village of Kasungu (population between 1200-1300) in the year ahead.

And, so, 2024 has been for Deb and me a season blessed by God for which we will, in the words of Paul in Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Peace through grace, Deb and Chuck



From Our Session:



The Session and congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Chuck Monts and his wife Deb for their dedication and service to our congregation and community this past year. Our relationship with the Monts started when Eileen Tremblay brought their planned mission trip to Malawi to our attention at a Session meeting in September of 2022. Rev. Chuck left his position as pastor of Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church to undertake this mission to Malawi. In January of 2023 Eileen did a presentation on the Monts' planned trip to Malawi with information provided by Chuck. At that time Session decided to donate \$500 toward the Monts' mission in order for them to purchase bicycles which would be their main mode of transportation in Malawi. Also the Fish Banks were used to collect funds that would be channeled to the Monts Malawi Mission. The Monts sent pictures and information to our church and Eileen created a bulletin board in the hallway to keep the congregation up to date on their mission along with regular reports to Session. When the Monts returned from Malawi, Chuck preached at our worship service on Sunday, November 19, 2024. After worship Chuck did a presentation for anyone who wanted more information about their mission trip during Fellowship. It was at this time where a few Session members came to the conclusion that Chuck was just the kind of person we needed as a temporary pastor. Session had discussions with Chuck about being a temporary pastor and in February with the blessing of the Committee of Ministry (Presbytery) he became our temporary pastor. Right from the start you could see Chuck's enthusiasm for the ministry. Chuck wasn't the kind to sit in his office write sermons and study the bible all day, he enjoyed being out and about getting to know the congregation and community. Chuck started out by personally visiting or contacting in some way each member of our congregation which he did in record time. Chuck instituted a Men's Breakfast and Women's Lunch each month to get to know our members and have fellowship and sharing, but also to invite community members to these as well. He started a Bible study on the book of Revelation that was attended by church and community members which furthered everyone's knowledge about the end times. Chuck along with the help of the Deacons and other members held lunches at the Zephyr Apartments to get to know our senior citizen neighbors and spread the gospel. Chuck reached out across denominational lines to establish a relationship with the Ukrainian Orthodox churches in Northampton and Allentown. He invited the Ukrainians to come to our church to speak to us about the war in the Ukraine and its effect on the people there. Chuck encouraged our church to reach out to our community to let them know who we were and what we were about. He did this by organizing a Block Party which involved the Fire Company and our neighbors to create an event that all could enjoy. Chuck instigated a community spaghetti dinner to give back to our community and invite them into our house. He also worked with Kevin Justice to organize the Chili Cook Off Contest which brought the community a tasty and fun event. Chuck did the regular stuff like writing sermons; visiting those in the hospital or homebound; doing funerals, preaching on Sundays and moderating Session meetings. All of this would have been impossible without the support and help of his wife, Deb. Even when she couldn't attend an event it was her support in the background that enabled Chuck to do what he did. There are probably many things that were not mentioned in this missive, but we truly appreciate what the Monts' have done for our church, congregation and community over the past year. We wish them all the best in whatever their endeavors may be during their retirement years.

God Bless you both,

Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua

January Birthdays

Jan. 1: Dave Linton, Bob Wasson
Jan. 2: Deborah Hartman , David Hertzog and Gail Kramlich
Jan. 3: David Sentiwany
Jan. 5: Carol Snyder
Jan. 9: Kathy Waters
Jan. 14: Tom Steigerwalt.
Jan. 15: Ashlynn Buskirk
Jan. 17: Brian Hart
Jan. 20: Sue Bode
Jan. 21: Stefanie Mondschein
Jan. 24: Deborah Bartholomew, Dunston Linton
Jan. 27: Jennifer Hartman
Jan. 29: David Wheeler
Jan. 30: Cory Juretus

January Greeters / Ushers

January 5: Terry and Diane Michael
January 12: Phil and Connie Overby
January 19: Donna Fink and Donna Pontician
January 26: Scott and Gail Kramlich
Communion Servers: Tom and Carol Steigerwalt
Communion Set-up and Take-down: Gail Rhinehart



What's Going On

Girl Scouts meet here every Monday at 6PM.

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.

Note: Choir practice 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.

Tuesday Fellowship will meet on January 7th at Assante's in Northampton. Please bring a \$10 gift. On January 21st Tuesday Fellowship will meet in Fellowship Hall at the church for fellowship, crafts, talk, etc.

New Elders and Deacon's elected for 2027: Deacons: Class of 2027 - Connie Overby, Sue Hoke, Karen Sentiwany, and Troy Guzanski. Elders class of 2027: Kevin Justice, Mary Ann Miller, Phil Overby and John Hrizuk.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL: We held our final Free Community Meal in November. We were out of food in about an hour, so it was a successful event. We have been doing these dinners since 2016 with the exception of 2020 due to Covid. Thanks to everyone for their assistance over the years.

CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE: Another final event is our holiday candy sales. Christmas was the last time we will be make candy. We have enjoyed doing it over the years and the proceeds have always gone toward projects that have enhanced our church.

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.



Shirley Adams	Sacred Heart Assisted Living by the Creek, 602 E. 21st Street, Apt. 318, Northampton, PA 18067
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
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 18013

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

Shelly Hillpot

Bill Jodry

Lois Jodry

Joe Kanusky

Raymond Kern

Barbara Knarr

Linda Kramaranko

Tom Krause

Rosemary Kravenko

Caroline Laudhorn

Jaden Leiby

Marie Lychak

Ivy Lynch

Todd Messner

Krista Overby & Family

Angie Pontician

Jacob Rivera

Ben Sammak

Rowan Sharrar

Jim Shedlauskas

Joanne Sienkiewicz

Tristen Suloman

Carol Steigerwalt

Jane Tremblay

Donna Walck

Carol Wal

Mike Woodling

Vance Woodley

People suffering from depression.

People in the Military.

People suffering Because of wars.



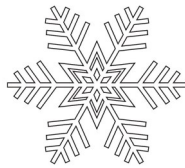
Scenes from the Holiday's



Deacon's Mitten Tree



Joyce Wheeler and granddaughter



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

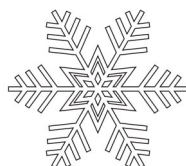
**We are the pasta Church !!!
We have set our goal each month a 100 boxes of pasta—your participation is greatly appreciated.**

The Journey Of Faith

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

In the journey of faith, we walk in grace,
Anticipating our growth in the coming year's embrace.
With grateful hearts and hopeful eyes,
We seek to deepen our spiritual ties.

May we learn and flourish as the days unfold,
Gaining wisdom and courage, as new chapters are told.
In the light of faith, let us brightly shine,
Embracing the journey ahead with a spirit divine.



Financial Report for November 2024

S. Butchinski, Treasurer

MTD: Actual Budget Over/Under

Income:

Expense:

YTD:

Income

Expense



Special Deacons News:

“Save the date and get out your recipes!”

Deacons will be sponsoring

Souper Bowl Sunday

On February 9



Deacons News:

Happy new year to all our beloved church family members! Deacons projects could not be accomplished without YOUR generous giving. Twenty-two poinsettias, purchased by YOU, decorated our already beautiful sanctuary this Christmas.

The mitten tree was adorned with 47 items from YOU. Several families in the community have benefited from gifts from YOU, including a family who lost everything in a house fire. Our warming station project will continue for the next 3 months. Gifts from YOU were taken there around the holiday. Items needed are coffee, sugar packets, granola bars, instant oatmeal packets, ramen noodles packets, Velveeta microwaveable cups, men’s cotton briefs sizes m-xl, heavy cotton tee shirts (adult), razors, deodorant, hand warmers, lip balm. Boxes will continue to be in place on the stage in fellowship hall.

Our church family celebrated Pastor Chuck’s last Sunday with a luncheon in fellowship hall. We all agree that Chuck and his boundless energy did countless GOOD things for our church and now it’s up to us to keep that hospitality going.

It was great seeing Louise and Barb back in church after 4 months. Both look great. Gail Rhinehart and Tucker have a new baby niece born in California. Joyce Wheeler had some of her family worship with us. Carter Boyle had his stitches out after his liver surgery. The family is grateful for all our prayers.

I got to share communion with some shut-ins; as I told Pastor Chuck when visiting with him, we get as much joy as they do with our visits. John went along to see Dolly and he wholeheartedly agrees.

Prayers for:

Archie Meyers who is having his shoulder surgery December 24;

Deb Bartholomew’s brother, Dan who will begin chemo soon.

All families who need help and healing with frayed relationships within them.

Always our community, country and world; remembering those in Malawi now that we know more about them thanks to Pastor Chuck.

Prayers for safe travels for those visiting families.

I’ll close with this...”as quiet as a winter snow He speaks, for it is in silence that we hear Him. Christmas Peace to all!

Melody

Prayer for the New Year

Give us the kindness to hear with compassion,
 to offer support,
 loving comfort, and care.
 Give us the courage to do what is needed,
 the wisdom to choose
 what is right and most fair.
 Give us the vision to see what is possible.
 Give us the faith
 that will help pave the way
 for a present that's hopeful,
 a future that's peaceful--
 give us the heart to bring joy to each day.



January 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Christmas. Communion. Food Bank Sunday. Pulpit Supply Rev. Kathryn Foster	6 Epiphany of the Lord. Book club	7 Fellowship Assante's 1PM.	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord. Joyful Noise Sunday. Pulpit Supply Rev. Shoemaker	13 Book Club	14	15	16	17	18
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Mission Sunday Rev. Andrew Barton	20 MLK Birthday. Book Club	21 Fellowship at the church.	22	23	24	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Deacon's Sunday. Rev. Shoemaker	27 Book Club	28	29	30	31	

First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua

First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua

3005 S. Front Street

Whitehall, PA 18052

Phone: 610-264-9693

E-Mail hokeypres@gmail.com



We're on the Web!
www.hokeypres.org