

HONEY BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2025



PO Box 276, Honey Brook, PA 19344

610-273-2848 or 717-205-6943

www.honeybrookpres.org

DECEMBER SERVICE AND MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:



Community Christmas

In partnership with Chester County Children's Foundation, we will be celebrating Christmas with families from the community at our church on Saturday, December 13 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Children will have the opportunity to make gifts for others, and along with their parents, hear the Christmas story, visit with Santa, and have a delicious meal. Help is needed for this event: overseeing a craft table; wrapping gifts; assisting with the meal, etc. If you are able to help, please see Peg Dombach. This is a great opportunity to minister to families in our community.

Honey Brook Food Pantry Collection

The month of November the Food Pantry served more families than they have ever served in the 12 years they have been in existence. Food insecurity has been felt by many families, due to various reasons.

To assist the Food Pantry in providing food for families, the Session has decided to take the offering given on Sunday, December 14, match it up to \$1,500 and donate it to the Honey Brook Food Pantry to assist them in providing nutritious food for the many clients.

Thank you for helping to meet a basic need of so many in our community.



HONEY BROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT TOY DRIVE

The Honey Brook Police Department is collecting **NEW, UNWRAPPED** toys and games for their 2025 Christmas Toy Drive from **November 24 to December 22, 2025**. Toys for boys and girls aged 5 – 15 years old can be dropped off in the containers located outside Fellowship Hall.

Please consider donating gifts for older children between the ages of 8 -16. Some gifts to consider – board games, sports balls, and other outdoor equipment (nerf, frisbee), jewelry, craft kits and gift cards.



Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase items needed. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Police Station or Borough Hall. Checks should be made payable to the "Honey Brook Police Department Activity Fund". Checks can also be mailed to "Honey Brook Police Department, 91 Pequea Ave, Honey Brook, PA 19344.



From the Pastor's Desk...

Every Friday evening, in Strasburg, PA, a group of people get together and serve a meal for anyone who wants to join them. Its goal is to feed the hunger of those who struggle to afford to feed their family or themselves. But it also is designed to feed people who are hungry for fellowship and connection with others.

The meal is served in the social hall of the Strasburg Presbyterian Church, but this ministry is emerging as a separate entity from the Strasburg Presbyterian Church. Its name is Our Table Church. Yes, it considers itself a church and is sanctioned by the Presbytery of Donegal as an emerging church.

I had the opportunity recently to have lunch with the leaders of this new church, Walter and Kristin Kondratowski, a young couple who have a vision of a church that will reach people and bring in people who the traditional churches are not connecting with today.

They explained to me that after dinner, those who wish to stay are invited to their church gathering, which includes Communion, an interactive Bible study, "Prayer and Share," and singing. In this way they are feeding the souls of the folks who stay.

When I mentioned Shepherd's Kitchen at HBPC to them they said they knew all about it. They had taken time to learn about the existing outreaches in the presbytery that serve a meal to the community.

Our most recent Shepherd's Kitchen served a full house of people; members, friends, and newcomers. While I know that something like Our Table Church is an enormous undertaking, it did make me wonder if we HBPC members could do more intentional connecting with people we don't know at Shepherd's Kitchen.

So, I would just like to encourage all of you to consider coming to Shepherd's Kitchen and see if we can make more connections with people who we don't know who are there. Let them see who we are and maybe, if an opportunity arises, mention what the church means to us and what Christ means to us as well.

Ed



Dear Ed,

It is hard to believe that this will be our last month with you. What began as a 6-month commitment, turned into 9 months as you extended your stay with us. We so appreciate your love for the Lord and your service in His name to our congregation. You have shared in our joys and in our sorrows and have shown us great love and compassion.

We now wish you the very best as you enjoy spending more time with Linda and your family, especially your beautiful little granddaughters.

*With Deep Appreciation,
Your Honey Brook Presbyterian Church Family*



LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Romans 15:4-13	James 5:7-10	Romans 1:1-7	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-25	John 1:1-18
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	Psalms 146:4-9	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18	Psalms 147 or 147:13-21

Liturgists

Tom Richards	December 7
Chris Masterson	December 14
Barb McDonald	December 21
Eileen Dillow	December 28

Greeters

Pat Longabaugh and Chris Martin	December 7
Sarah, Sidney and Annabel Masterson	December 14
John McDonald and Linda Jackaway	December 21
Marty Ruser and Marie Sole	December 28

Thank You...

Dear Congregation Members:

On behalf of the Coatesville VA Medical Center (542) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of shampoo, body wash, deodorant, and clothing items for our Veterans. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allows us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events. Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lilly, Chief CDCE



OPEN MIC NIGHT—"The Back Door"

November's Open Mic Night had 21 people in attendance, with thirteen performers. Ruth Snader played "Born Free" on the keyboard. Great job, Ruth! Five church members came and two performed. The next Open Mic Night will be December 15 (3rd Monday) from 7-9:30 p.m. Signups are 6:30 for those who will be playing. Please come out and enjoy the fun! Light refreshments are available. For more information, contact Lynn Klumpp at 610-761-2606.

SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN



November's Shepherd Kitchen had an amazing attendance. Every table was filled! People came at 4:15 and 30 were served in half an hour! The turkey meal is always the biggest turn out. We thought for awhile we would run out! We had 5 deliveries too! We were thankful for those who donated 3 turkeys to roast pies, cakes, give aways, and especially their time for our community mission.

December 4 is our big Christmas ham dinner. Come out and join us! We serve from 4:30-6:30, but can always use volunteers to prepare and serve. Contact Lynn Klumpp (610-761-2606), if you are able to assist.



ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word meaning a coming, or arrival, and refers to the coming of the Lord. The Advent season begins the entire Church year on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.

The Advent wreath is a powerful way to focus prayer during the Advent season. It often consists of a wreath of greens lying flat with three purple (or blue) candles and one pink candle around the outside and a white candle in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday, with the pink candle being lit on the third Sunday. The center white "Christ" candle is lit on Christmas Eve. The bright candles symbolize the Light of the World telling us of the coming light of Christ into a cold, dark world. The never-ending circle of greens reminds us of God's unending love and the source of our hope.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Spread the word! Come celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve, **December 24th, at 7:00 pm**. This is a special service of scripture and carols to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus with friends and family. A freewill offering will be taken which will be given to the Honey Brook Food Pantry. If you can help by reading scripture, contact Norma Mantz (mantznorma@yahoo.com) or tell her personally.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Hat and Mitten Tree

Thank you so much for all of the donations of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, pajamas, socks, and other assorted cold weather items. The tree and the area around it were full. 186 items have been taken to the Honey Brook Food Pantry to be selected by clients in need of winter wear. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Christmas Tea

The Women's Christmas gathering this year will be a tea. Barbara McDonald is graciously hosting us on **Monday, December 15th at 1PM**. *(Take note of the new date.)* You are asked to bring your own tea cup and if there is a story behind it, you can share it with the group. This is always a nice time and we hope you can join us. For planning purposes, if you know you will be attending let Barbara or Eileen know. If you won't know until the last minute, please come anyway.



Sustainability Tip:

- Use weatherstripping or caulk to seal gaps in doors and windows to prevent heat loss and reduced comfort.
- Switch the direction of your ceiling fan to clockwise to push the warm air down to help you feel warmer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—"They Walked With God"

This month, we will continue with our lessons from "They Walked With God: 40 Bible Characters Who Inspire Us." We will then take a break from this study and begin "The Chosen: Season 5" in January. Sunday School is from 9-10 a.m. each Sunday! Light refreshments are served. All children are welcome to come and take part in our Children's Sunday School Class taught by Ruthann Kistler.

December 7—Paralyzed Man

December 14—Paul

December 21—Peter

December 28—Philip

COMMON CENTS (AND DOLLARS) FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 per capita is \$38

Per capita through November 20, 2025

- income - \$687
- paid out - \$1875

If you are able, please consider paying your per capita. Thank you!

Honey Brook Presbyterian Church

2025 Statement of Activities

Date Range: Oct 1st 2025 - Oct 31st 2025

Accounts	Actual Oct 01, 2025 - Oct 31, 2025	Budget Oct 01, 2025 - Oct 31, 2025	Budget Over/Under Oct 01, 2025 - Oct 31, 2025	Actual This Year Year to Date	Budget This Year Year to Date	Budget Over/Under This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year
Revenues							
Unrestricted	11,328.60	10,944.17	384.43	107,928.39	109,441.70	(1,513.31)	131,330.00
Designated Funds	100.00	225.00	(125.00)	1,690.00	2,250.00	(560.00)	2,700.00
Donor Restricted	535.00	125.00	410.00	5,055.00	1,250.00	3,805.00	1,500.00
Pass Thru	280.00	108.34	171.66	21,012.00	1,083.40	19,928.60	1,300.00
Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains,	545.18	1,834.16	(1,288.98)	18,218.34	18,341.60	(123.26)	22,010.00
Redemptions	0.00	5,550.00	(5,550.00)	0.00	22,512.00	(22,512.00)	33,612.00
Building Lease	1,565.00	3,950.00	(2,385.00)	22,445.00	27,650.00	(5,205.00)	39,500.00
Miscellaneous	150.00	216.67	(66.67)	2,150.00	2,166.70	(16.70)	2,600.00
Total Revenues	\$ 14,503.78	\$ 22,953.34	(\$ 8,449.56)	\$ 178,498.73	\$ 184,695.40	(\$ 6,196.67)	\$ 234,552.00
Expenses							
Senior Pastor	3,516.74	11,782.99	8,266.25	26,138.48	79,333.90	53,195.42	102,900.00
Staff Salaries	812.66	812.66	0.00	8,876.60	21,126.60	12,250.00	22,752.00
Employer Expenses	62.17	175.00	112.83	621.70	1,750.00	1,128.30	2,100.00
Administrative Expense	386.00	1,000.00	614.00	7,262.65	10,000.00	2,737.35	12,000.00
Designated Funds	14.65	125.00	110.35	1,342.56	1,250.00	(92.56)	1,500.00
Worship	375.00	816.67	441.67	8,607.74	8,166.70	(441.04)	9,800.00
Christian Education	0.00	12.50	12.50	360.00	725.00	365.00	750.00
Church & Community	0.00	83.34	83.34	385.66	833.40	447.74	1,000.00
Building & Grounds	2,114.66	5,741.67	3,627.01	92,378.62	56,916.70	(35,461.92)	68,600.00
Pastor Search (PNC)	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	129.06	10,000.00	9,870.94	12,000.00
Pass Thru	0.00	0.00	0.00	715.00	0.00	(715.00)	0.00
Reserve	0.00	95.83	95.83	0.00	958.30	958.30	1,150.00
Total Expenses	\$ 7,281.88	\$ 21,645.66	\$ 14,363.78	\$ 146,818.07	\$ 191,060.60	\$ 44,242.53	\$ 234,552.00
Net Total	\$ 7,221.90	\$ 1,307.68	\$ 5,914.22	\$ 31,680.66	(\$ 6,365.20)	\$ 38,045.86	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS:

- Offering YTD is under budget by \$1531
- Total income YTD (including \$20K bequest) is \$31K greater than the Total Expense YTD

STEWARDSHIP

It is not too late to get your pledge in for 2026. Please see that Eileen Dillow gets your pledge soon.

December 28th will be the last day that money will be received for 2025. If you have pledged for 2025 and not sure where you stand, you can check on Realm or ask Eileen.

CHARITY FUND

The Charity Fund is designed for donors to give to congregationally-connected families in need of assistance. Some are known to you, some are not. If you wish to give to this fund, over and above your regular giving, please make sure that your check is made out to the church but the notation is for Charity Fund. Opportunities for assistance and questions may be directed to Tom Richards or Peg Dombach.

Omitted November Birthday

November 25—Ed Baugh

December Birthdays:

December 3—Peg Dombach

December 14—Bill Klumpp

December 17—Norma Mantz

Please contact Karen DeAscentiis (kdeascentiis@verizon.net) with your relevant dates and other information.



Omitted November Anniversary:

November 13—Bob and Ruth Snader (1976)

December Anniversaries:

December 6—Dave and Betty Moore (2007)

December 16—Tom and Barb Spirko (1972)

December 26—Sam and Susan Massey (1983)

December 29—Ed and Linda Baugh (2012)

Congratulations!

Please send to Peg Dombach (pdombach@ptd.net) any joys, achievements, milestones, etc. for anyone in your family, and we will include them in the monthly newsletters.

Peg Bader is celebrating the births of two new great grandchildren born within weeks of each other. Emmett Cash Tuel entered this world on October 22 weighing in at 6 pounds 12 ounces and 19 inches long. His parents are Randy and Gracie Tuel.

Her other great grandchild is a little girl who was born to Peg's grandson, Ryan. We are so happy for Peg and her family in the birth of these two special blessings.



Bill Klumpp joined with some of his classmates to celebrate his 45th high school reunion from Twin Valley High School. It is always special to reconnect with friends that you haven't seen in a while. You are one year closer to retirement, Bill!



Barb and Tom Spirko are celebrating the birth of their new granddaughter, Juniper, who was born on November 23 in England. Barb was able to travel there and be with them when the baby was born. Congratulations to the entire Spirko family!



Our church just celebrated Stewardship Sunday where we made a commitment to support our church with our resources, gifts, and time, so we can be an effective witness of Jesus in our community and throughout the world. We feel very blessed to be part of such a special church family.



Ed and Linda Baugh recently celebrated the birthdays of their two beautiful granddaughters. Poppy is now 5 and Dahlia celebrated her 1st birthday. They certainly keep Ed and Linda busy and bring them much joy.



CHRISTMAS SONGS

guessing game

1. This season gets first place
2. The apartment of 2 psychiatrists
3. No hablo espanol
4. Punch the spaces between rooms
5. Only my dentist could grant me my Christmas wish
6. The smog-less bewitching hour arrived
7. Exuberation to this orb
8. I'm starting to see some Yuletide similarities
9. 288 Yuletide hours
10. "Lost Kid in aisle 12!"
11. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs
12. Stepping on the pad cover
13. God is with us, so get over here, get over here!
14. Far back in a hay bin
15. Frozen precipitation commence
16. We are Kong, Lear and Nat Cole
17. This town in Jerusalem sure is small
18. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas
19. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
20. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
21. If the yuletide was an intermediate between green and violet
22. Why aren't there any words in this song? All I hear is ringing.
23. 365 Days ago
24. An infant version of the man in red at the mall
25. I spied my maternal parent osculating a red-coated, unshaven teamster

The answers will be posted on the bulletin board at the church or you can email Peg Dombach at pdombach@ptd.net for the answer sheet. Enjoy the game alone or play it with family at your Christmas celebrations.

Merry Christmas!

Schedule of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Every Sunday	Sunday School for all ages	9:00—10:00 a.m.
Every Sunday	Worship of God in Sanctuary	10:30 a.m.
Every Sunday	Coffee Hour in Eppihimer Fellowship Hall	Following worship
Every Tuesday, as needed	PNC meets - Eppihimer Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.
Every Wednesday	AA Meeting—Old Fellowship Hall	6:00—9:00 p.m.
Every Wednesday	Bell Choir Practice—Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.
November 30	1st Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.
December 4	Shepherd's Kitchen—Eppihimer Fellowship Hall	4:30-6:30 p.m.
December 7	2nd Sunday of Advent—Communion during Worship	10:30 a.m.
December 10	Honey Brook Women's Club—Eppihimer Fell. Hall	6:30 p.m.
December 14	3rd Sunday of Advent—Bells Play during Worship	10:30 a.m.
December 14	Congregational Meeting following Worship	11:30 a.m.
December 14	Session Meeting—Eppihimer Fellowship Hall	12 noon
December 15	Open Mic Night—Old Fellowship Hall	6:30 pm—9:30 pm
December 21	4th Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.
December 25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	

PNC CONTINUES THE SEARCH

The PNC is still asking for your prayers as they continue to work through potential candidates to find the best match for our congregation.

We thank the church family for their ongoing support through this process.



Want to know who is in charge of what when you can't reach Pastor Ed? Contact the following officer for each area:

Clerk of Session—Gwynne Sweatlock

- (gsweatlock@gmail.com)

Building and Grounds—Bill Klumpp

- (honeybrookhandyman@gmail.com)
- (for emergencies text 610-463-4144)

Caring and Fellowship Ministry—Lynn Klumpp

- (lynnklumpp@yahoo.com)

Education and Spiritual Formation—Chris Masterson

- (masterson.chris@gmail.com)

Mission and Community Relations—Keith and Peg Dombach

- (pdombach@ptd.net, kdombach@yahoo.com)

Personnel and Administration—Paul Sweatlock

- (psweatlock@gmail.com)

Worship and Welcome—Norma Mantz

- (mantznorma@yahoo.com)

Comptroller, Realm Admin and General Inquiries —Karen DeAscentiis

- (kdeascentiis@verizon.net)