

February 2026

HONEY BROOK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



PO Box 276, Honey Brook, PA 19344

610-273-2848

From the Pastor's Desk...



In our short time among you, Pastor Bruce and I have been familiarizing ourselves to the ministry of Honey Brook Presbyterian Church on the local level and the wider level of The Presbytery of Donegal. One important topic is the Congregational Antiracism Policy that The Book of Order now requires every session to adopt. This is a topic that is "near and dear to our hearts." You see, we are the proud grandparents to two bi-racial boys, Landon Jackson, age 16, and Louis Allen, age 13. Our grandboys are adopted and due to the type of adoption program, our eldest son, Nathan, and his wife, Kara, were chosen by the birth parent/parents from an extensive profile our kids had to compile.

Most grandparents don't notice the things we do with our grandboys such as the first time they came to visit us in Waynesboro, PA and Louis spotted an African American man who was dark skinned and pointed out to me "that man is dark like me." I replied to Louis, "Yes, he is dark skinned like you." It was clear to me that we had a responsibility to make sure we showed him how important it would be to both Lou and Landon to make sure we lifted up their African American heritage and celebrated it. Louis describes our family this way: Lou is dark chocolate, his brother Landon is light/milk chocolate, and his parents are white chocolate, as are the grandparents.

Back in 2020 after the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd in Minnesota, our eldest grandson, Landon came to his parents crying that he couldn't sleep and was afraid that people would come to kill his little brother Louis because he was dark skinned like the two men who had been killed. We wrote our grandboys a letter to let them know that we will always do our best to protect, speak out, and educate them about the truth of racial inequality and mistreatment and killing of African Americans in our country. I keep a copy of this letter to our grandboys so that I can be assured that I will live up to the promise we made to them that day. My hope in sharing this with you all is that you will see the importance of coming up with an Antiracism Policy here at HBPC. I truly feel that this is a church that would fling wide its doors to welcome all God's children, but we must be willing and have the courage to proclaim what it is we believe. Martin Luther King once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Together, let's come up with a policy that matters.

Blessings on the Journey,
Pastor Narda

PS: Stop by the office to see their pictures!



LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Micah 6:1-8	Isaiah 58:1-12	Exodus 24:12-18	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
I Corinthians 1:18-31	I Corinthians 2:1-16	2 Peter 1:16-21	Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 17:1-9	Matthew 4:1-11
Psalm 15	Psalm 112:1-10	Psalm 2 or 99	Psalm 32

Liturgists		Greeters	
Tom Richards	February 1	Marty Ruser and Marie Sole	February 1
Chris Masterson	February 8	Chris Martin and Pat Longabaugh	February 8
Eileen Dillow	February 15	TBD	February 15
Karen DeAscentiis	February 22	Ruthann Kistler and Naomi Miller	February 22

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PNC is asking for your on-going prayers as they continue to review pastoral resumes and conduct ZOOM interviews.



MISSIONS

February 8-14 is National Salute to Veteran Patients Week. To honor those who have served our country and are now hospitalized, we will be collecting items to assist in the personal care of veterans who are patients at the Coatesville VA Medical Center. Items can be brought in until February 22 and placed in the bin outside of Fellowship Hall. Below are the items that are needed:



Men

t-shirts

underwear

sweatpants

Men's clothing should be sizes
S, M, or 3X

Women

sanitary products

underwear

sweatshirts

Women's clothing should be sizes
S, M, L, or 2X

Thank You...

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for your cards, food, visits, and especially the prayers we received during Charlie's illness. We would also like to thank Pastor Ed for the service he had for Charlie, and the Presbyterian Women of the church who prepared and served the luncheon following the service.

Thank you again. God bless you all!

Fran, Ruth, and Keith Fetterhoff

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Environmental and Sustainability Tips for Winter:



- De-Ice Sustainably: Use sand, ash, or cat litter instead of harsh chemicals, and shovel snow before it compacts.
- If you have a wood-burning fireplace, save your ashes in a tin instead of throwing them away. Cold wood ashes can be mixed in your compost heap to create a valuable soil amendment that provides nutrients to your garden.
- Winter storms often cause power outages. Prevent waste by using rechargeable batteries rather than disposable ones for your flashlights. If you do use disposable batteries, prevent hazardous waste by buying batteries with low mercury content.

SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN



We did not serve a Shepherd's Kitchen meal in January due to the New Year holiday. Thursday, February 5 will be the next Shepherd's Kitchen community meal with meatloaf on the menu.

Come out and join us! Sit around the table and get to know the people that come. 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.

OPEN MIC NIGHT



January 21 was a bitter cold night, following our weekend snows, which deterred most folks from attending Open Mic Night. Two people performed for an hour and then they decided to end at 8:30. Thank you, Bill, for coming out and setting up. Hopefully the weather for next month will be less frigid!

The next Open Mic Night will be February 16 (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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be continuing through Season 5 of *The Chosen* during the month of February. It is helpful to watch the episode at home prior to coming since we are not able to watch the entire episode during Sunday School

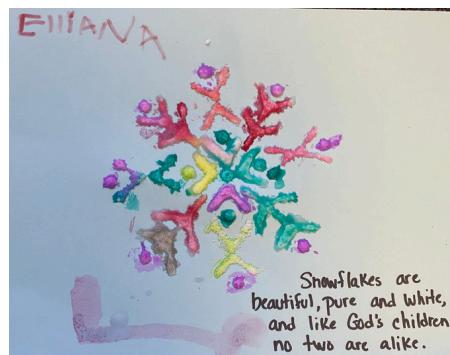
Please join us each Sunday morning from 9-10! Light refreshments are served. All children are welcome to come and take part in our Children's Sunday School Class taught by Ruthann Kistler. The girls recently created snowflakes using, glue, salt, and watercolors, to show us how God has made each of us uniquely.

February 1 - Episode 3: Woes

February 8—Episode 4: The Same Coin

February 15—Episode 5: Because of Me

February 22—Episode 6: Reunions



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LENT?

In just a couple of weeks, we will enter the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Since the time of the early church, followers of Jesus have engaged in devotional practices that parallel the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and praying prior to the start of his ministry.

The season of Lent calls us to intentional time growing in and reflecting on our faith and how our relationship with God shapes our relationship with others and the world around us. How we enter and engage in this season can vary from person to person and across Christian faith traditions, but what we share is the desire to draw closer to God.

The length of time from Ash Wednesday until Easter is 46 days, but the Sundays in Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(excerpted from a Presbytery of Milwaukee lenten resource)



Our church will be holding an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm. We hope that you will join us to prepare your hearts for the season of Lent.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Isaiah 58:6-7

COMMON CENTS (AND DOLLARS) FINANCIAL REPORT

2026 per capita is \$39.00

- General Assembly—\$9.35 per member
- Synod of the Trinity—\$2.40 per member
- Donegal Presbytery—\$27.25

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

Honey Brook Presbyterian Church 2025 Annual Statement of Activities

Date Range: Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025

Accounts	Actual This Year Year to Date	Budget Over/Under This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year
		Budget Over/Under This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year
Revenues			
Unrestricted	125,070.83	(6,259.17)	131,330.00
Designated Funds	3,060.00	360.00	2,700.00
Donor Restricted	5,753.00	4,253.00	1,500.00
Pass Thru	21,052.00	19,752.00	1,300.00
Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains,	22,620.84	610.84	22,010.00
Redemptions	0.00	(33,612.00)	33,612.00
Building Lease	26,740.00	(12,760.00)	39,500.00
Miscellaneous	2,400.00	(200.00)	2,600.00
Total Revenues	\$ 206,696.67	(\$ 27,855.33)	\$ 234,552.00
Expenses			
Senior Pastor	33,891.26	69,008.74	102,900.00
Staff Salaries	14,085.25	8,666.75	22,752.00
Employer Expenses	828.92	1,271.08	2,100.00
Administrative Expense	8,642.59	3,357.41	12,000.00
Designated Funds	6,350.43	(4,850.43)	1,500.00
Worship	9,732.74	67.26	9,800.00
Christian Education	550.00	200.00	750.00
Church & Community	626.55	373.45	1,000.00
Building & Grounds	100,300.92	(31,700.92)	68,600.00
Pastor Search (PNC)	129.06	11,870.94	12,000.00
Pass Thru	715.00	(715.00)	0.00
Reserve	0.00	1,150.00	1,150.00
Total Expenses	\$ 175,852.72	\$ 58,699.28	\$ 234,552.00
Net Total	\$ 30,843.95	\$ 30,843.95	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS

Income was less than budgeted for the year mainly because:

1. Reduction in Little Mates income for the last several months.
2. Lower envelope giving than budgeted.
3. We 'borrowed' and repaid money from Principal Securities, so the \$33,612 that was budgeted to help pay for the new roof was not needed.

We again met our per capita commitment to Presbytery.

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.

February Birthdays:

February 11 Eileen Dillow
February 22 Agnes Supplee
February 24 Kayla Klumpp
February 26 Dave Hackett



February Anniversaries:

No anniversaries in February

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

Congratulations!

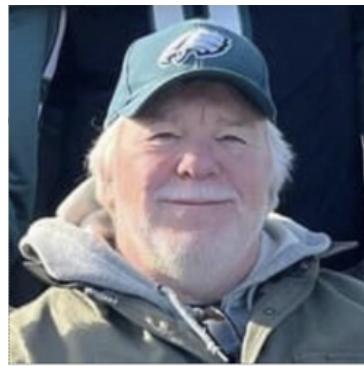


John Paul McDonald (JP) was born January 10, 2026 at 2:04 am weighing 7lbs 4oz to Ben and Danielle McDonald of Malvern. It has been 17 years since **John and Barbara McDonald** have had a baby in the family and they are over the moon with happiness. Congratulations John and Barbara!



Ryan Klumpp's first day of preschool brought a big smile to his face! What an exciting time for him. We hope that school always brings you this much joy, Ryan.

Congratulations to **Marty Ruser**, **Bill Klumpp**, and **Ruthann Kistler**, our newly ordained and installed elders. (Hopefully, the weather cooperates to get Ruthann ordained and installed on February 1.) Thank you for your commitment to our church family and your willingness to lead in this capacity.



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.



GETTING TO KNOW Tom Richards

Tom Richards was born in Germantown Hospital and lived in Ambler for 5 years while his parents finished advanced degrees at Philadelphia universities. His family then moved back to Coatesville, where their extended family was located. Tom grew up in that community and graduated from Coatesville Area Senior High School in 1975. He had one sister, Marilou, who was 5 years older than him. Both Tom and his sister were adopted as infants. Sadly, his sister passed away in 2015. Tom's birth mother named him John Matthew but his adoptive parents changed his name to Thomas.

After high school, Tom attended Drexel University in their co-op program. He eventually transferred to Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science and graduated with a degree in Textile Management and Marketing. Unfortunately, by that time, most of the textile industry was being sent overseas, so he got into mortgage banking for ten years.

Tom's friend invited him to a party and that is where he met his wife, Jeanne. They dated for over seven years before they got married in 1987. They have three children: Zach, Ben and Emily. Zach and his wife Victoria made Tom and Jeanne grandparents, with the birth of Amelia. They now live in Phoenixville. Ben and his wife Hannah live in Birdsboro and Emily is presently in Germany where she is completing her master's degree in Particle Physics. She is in the process of applying to universities to begin her doctorate.

Tom began working for Scully Industrial Gas and Welding Supplies in Collingdale, a company owned by Jeanne's family. He used the experience he gained there to become the branch manager of the Air Gas store in Parkesburg, where he is presently employed.

After Tom and Jeanne were married and they were thinking of starting a family, they decided to try to find Tom's birth mother. The Children's Aid Society handled the adoption and he was able to get his mother's name. They did not have much success locating her for quite a few years until the Internet opened up so many other ways of searching. Jeanne was able to find her and Tom wrote her a letter to let her know that he had a good life and that he did not harbor any ill feelings towards her for the decision she made. Unfortunately, his mother never responded to the letter.

So, what does Tom do in his free time? Did you know that he runs an antique booth at Cackleberry Antiques in Kinzer? He sells mostly vintage fishing tackle, reels, lures, rods and duck decoys. He and Jeanne also have a boat that they keep in a marina near Elkton, Maryland. They love to cruise around the Chesapeake, drop and anchor, and relax.

As a child, Tom's home church was Olivet Methodist in Coatesville. He had his children baptized in the Honey Brook Methodist Church. He started attending a men's Bible Study at our church when Bill Wisneski was our pastor and has become an active member. But did you know that Tom had ties to our church prior to that? The home he and Jeanne live in on Arch Street in Honey Brook belonged to his great-aunt Alice Guiney, a former member of our church. And, before Dawn Dillow's marriage to Alex, she was the nanny to Tom's sister's triplets while they were young and living in Alexandria, Virginia.

Tom has served as a deacon and an elder in our church. He prepares the elements for communion each month and also helps to oversee the monies given through the Charity Fund. We are very thankful to have Tom as part of our church family.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Event	Time
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.
February 1	Communion during Worship	10:30 a.m.
February 1	Session meeting following Coffee Hour	12 noon
February 1	Private Party - Old Fellowship Hall	1:00 p.m.
February 5	Shepherd's Kitchen - Eppihimer Fell. Hall	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
February 8	Annual Congregational Meeting	Following worship
February 13	Life Line Screening - Old Fellowship Hall	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
February 16	Open Mic Night - Old Fellowship Hall	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
February 18	Ash Wednesday - season of Lent begins	7:00 p.m.



For concerns, contact the appropriate member to assist you:

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—

Gwynne Sweatlock
 (gsweatlock@gmail.com)

Worship and Welcome—Norma Mantz
 (mantznorma@yahoo.com)

Comptroller, Realm Admin and General Inquiries —Karen DeAscentiis
 (kdeascentiis@verizon.net)

Elders Marty Ruser and Ruthann Kistler will be added to this list after February 1st.