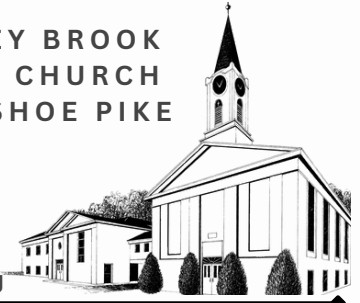


April 2026

NEWSLETTER

HONEY BROOK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4331 HORSESHOE PIKE



PO Box 276, Honey Brook, PA 19344 - 610.273.2848 or 717.994.4614 - www.honeybrookpres.org

From the Pastor's Desk...



If you're like me, you love to share some of your favorite things. One of mine is my love of books. I felt like I was "in heaven" when I worked for Christian Light Bookstores for thirteen-years. There, I had access to some fantastic books and authors. One of my favorites is a book entitled, "To Bless the Space Between Us," by John O'Donohue. O'Donohue captured a great sense of wonder of the natural world and a deep wisdom and kindness born from a life studying philosophy and theology. He was also a Catholic Priest for seventeen-years and left that service to concentrate on his writings. Sadly, John passed away unexpectedly in 2008, yet his works bring amazing understanding about ourselves and the world around us that links us to the divine. As the celebration of Easter is upon us, I want to share with you the beautiful words of "Easter Blessings" by O'Donohue:

"On this Easter morning,
let us look again at the lives we have been so generously given
and let us let fall away the useless baggage that we carry –
old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing and feeling –
and let us have the courage to begin again.
Life is very short, and we are no sooner here than it is time to depart again,
and we should use to the full the time that we still have.
We don't realize all the good we can do.
A kind, encouraging word or helping hand
can bring many a person through dark valleys in their lives.
We weren't put here to make money or to acquire status or reputation.
We were sent here to search for the light of Easter in our hearts,
and when we find it we are meant to give it away generously.
The dawn that is rising this Easter morning is a gift to our hearts
and we are meant to celebrate it and to carry away
from this holy, ancient place the gifts of healing and light
and the courage of a new beginning."

It has been said that Easter is a miracle, a promise, and a calling, to which I agree wholeheartedly. The truth of Easter is a sacred invitation to reawaken our souls to the gift of life and the infinite possibilities before us. The Easter proclamation stirs us from the slumber of indifference, opening our hearts to see the world with renewed wonder – to feel again the joy of simply being alive, and to walk more fully and freely in the way of the Risen Christ.

May it be so in all of our lives!

Easter Blessings, Pastor Narda



LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalm 16	Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17	Psalm 23

Liturgists		Greeters	
Tom Richards	April 5	Pat Longabaugh and Chris Martin	April 5
Karen DeAscentiis	April 12	Logan Emery and Marty Ruser	April 12
Sue Welsh	April 19	Ruthann Kistler and Naomi Miller	April 19
Carolyn Tate	April 26	Helmut Bartel and Barb Spirko	April 26

MISSIONS: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

During the season of Lent we have been focusing on One Great Hour of Sharing as our mission. The theme this year comes from Micah 6:8. "What does the Lord require of you? ...to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." Money given will support Disaster Recovery, Hunger Relief, Poverty, Immigration/Migration/Refugees, and Climate Change in both national and international initiatives.



All donations must be brought to church by **Easter Sunday, April 5**. You can use the fish boxes, the OGHS envelopes, or clearly mark on your check or church envelope that your donation is for OGHS. Thank you for your support of the vital ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing. **If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!**

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service

Thursday, April 2, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Communion will be served.

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 5, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Communion will be served.



There will be no Sunday School Easter morning
and no Coffee Hour following the worship service.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Save the Dates:

- Presbyterian Women will hold their Spring Gathering on April 25 at New Harmony Presbyterian Church. More information to follow.
- The annual Strawberry Festival will be Friday, June 5 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars! We will need lots of help!



Environmental and Sustainability Tips for April

- Celebrate April 22nd by volunteering for local community cleanups, tree plantings, or participating in "Groom and Bloom" projects.
- Start a compost bin to manage organic waste.
- Grow your own food (even on a balcony) to reduce "food miles".

SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN



Shepherds Kitchen's number was down in March due to extremely foggy weather! Those who did attend enjoyed homemade chicken pot pie, salad, applesauce and yummy desserts!

Back by popular demand is our chicken stuffing casserole, salad, and Easter desserts that will be served at the Shepherd's Kitchen on Thursday, April 2. Join us for good food and fellowship followed by Maundy Thursday Service.

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



Open Mic Night was moved from March 16 to March 23 due to the heavy windstorm that came through that night. On March 23, sixteen people attended. Nine played and seven made up the audience. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the refreshments!

The next Open Mic Night will be April 20 (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

There will be **no** Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 5. This will give everyone some time to do some family activities and Easter preparations prior to the 10:30 Worship Service. We have finished Season 5 of The Chosen. Season 6 will not be available to us for while so we will move on to another study.

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.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) would like to provide a brief update on the ongoing search process. We understand that this has been a long season, and we share in the congregation's desire to see the Lord provide the right pastor in His timing.

Please be assured that the committee has been actively and diligently engaged throughout this process. Much of the work involved, requires careful



discernment, prayer, and confidentiality out of respect for candidates and their current ministries. While this limits what can be shared publicly, it does not reflect a lack of progress or effort.

We remain committed to seeking God's will above all else and are grateful for your continued prayers, patience, and encouragement. We trust that the Lord is at work, even when the process feels slow, and we look forward to the day when we can share more.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this season.

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. Isaiah 40:1

Introducing... Dave Gerhart

We are delighted to formally introduce Dave Gerhart, who has been worshipping with our church family for the last several months. Dave first joined us at the invitation of Karen DeAscentiis. The two met at a grief support group held at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

A local at heart, Dave grew up in Caln Township, attending Caln Elementary and graduating from the Coatesville Area Senior High School. After earning his degree from the University of Pittsburgh, he returned home to Caln Township to begin a career in technical support. For the last thirty years, Dave has called Honey Brook home, where he lived with his late wife, Fenny, until her passing three years ago.

Currently, Dave is looking toward a new chapter as he completes online courses to become a pharmacy technician. He's looking forward to getting to know the Honey Brook community better through his time with our church family. We have quickly come to appreciate Dave's quiet, gentle spirit and are so grateful to have him in our fellowship. If you haven't had the chance yet, please reach out and offer Dave a very warm welcome!



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 2026 Statement of Activities

Date Range: Feb 1st 2026 - Feb 28th 2026

Accounts	Actual Feb 01, 2026 - Feb 28, 2026	Budget Feb 01, 2026 - Feb 28, 2026	Budget Over/Under Feb 01, 2026 - Feb 28, 2026	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	16,830.52	9,166.67	7,663.85	19,942.73	18,333.34	1,609.39	110,000.00
Designated Funds	220.00	225.00	(5.00)	220.00	450.00	(230.00)	2,700.00
Donor Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
Pass Thru	396.00	83.33	312.67	476.00	166.66	309.34	27,000.00
Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains, Redemptions	0.19 0.00	4,250.83 0.00	(4,250.64) 0.00	545.30 0.00	4,824.16 0.00	(4,278.86) 0.00	23,500.00 18,000.00
Building Lease	1,565.00	0.00	1,565.00	1,565.00	0.00	1,565.00	14,000.00
Miscellaneous	200.00	216.67	(16.67)	350.00	433.34	(83.34)	2,600.00
Total Revenues	\$ 19,211.71	\$ 13,942.50	\$ 5,269.21	\$ 23,099.03	\$ 24,207.50	(\$ 1,108.47)	\$ 199,400.00
Expenses							
Senior Pastor	6,374.73	7,916.67	1,541.94	8,869.53	15,833.34	6,963.81	95,000.00
Staff Salaries	1,895.99	1,895.99	0.00	3,791.98	3,791.98	0.00	22,752.00
Employer Expenses	145.05	132.67	(12.38)	290.10	265.34	(24.76)	1,592.00
Administrative Expense	393.12	750.00	356.88	1,099.64	1,500.00	400.36	9,000.00
Designated Funds	106.62	125.00	18.38	206.62	250.00	43.38	1,500.00
Worship	625.00	791.67	166.67	1,075.00	1,583.34	508.34	9,500.00
Christian Education	0.00	62.50	62.50	0.00	125.00	125.00	750.00
Church & Community	0.00	75.00	75.00	355.95	150.00	(205.95)	900.00
Building & Grounds	2,175.49	4,333.33	2,157.84	6,618.46	8,666.66	2,048.20	52,000.00
Pastor Search (PNC)	826.00	416.67	(409.33)	826.00	833.34	7.34	5,000.00
Pass Thru	0.00	66.67	66.67	0.00	133.34	133.34	800.00
Reserve	0.00	50.50	50.50	0.00	101.00	101.00	606.00
Total Expenses	\$ 12,542.00	\$ 16,616.67	\$ 4,074.67	\$ 23,133.28	\$ 33,233.34	\$ 10,100.06	\$ 199,400.00
Net Total	\$ 6,669.71	(\$ 2,674.17)	\$ 9,343.88	(\$ 34.25)	(\$ 9,025.84)	\$ 8,991.59	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS

- Some line items in the budget have been respread to better align with the timing of checks. The dollar total remains the same with the exception of Redemption and Building Lease - those numbers were reversed when the budget was loaded. That has been corrected

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.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11

April Birthdays:

- April 3 Peg Bader
- April 3 Dave Moore
- April 4 Sarah Masterson
- April 4 Jim Kohler, Jr.
- April 8 Deborah Bachman
- April 11 Paul Sweatlock
- April 23 Stephanie Kohler
- April 26 Nicole Brady
- April 30 Lynn Klumpp



April Anniversaries::

- April 18 - Paul and Gwynne Sweatlock (1998)
- April 26 - Dick and Rosalie Plank (1968)

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

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.

The Many Hats of Karen DeAscentiis



We celebrated Karen DeAscentiis the beginning of March to thank her for all that she does for the church. Karen wears many "hats" but she got to remove one as she turned over the church secretary position to Aurora Cannon. Thank you, Karen, for serving the church in this capacity.



The pictures to the left are of the children visiting the Honey Brook Day Camp facilities located on the 2nd floor of our Christian Education Building during the Spaghetti Supper. Crafts, live animals, free books, Legos...what more could a child want?



thank you **FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Thank you so much for all of your help with the Spaghetti Supper. We fed approximately 100 people and raised about \$900 for the Honey Brook Day Camp. Twenty-two volunteers from our church community stepped up to cook, serve, greet, and clean up. Others, from the Chester County Children's Foundation Board assisted also. We could not have done this without all of you. We appreciate the generosity of your time.



HONEY BROOK DAY CAMP - APRIL MISSION FOCUS

The "summer slide" is a phenomenon where students, particularly from low-income families, lose 1-3 months of academic progress, specifically 17-28% in literacy and 25-34% in math, over summer break. Read the alarming statistics below for low-income students.

Key Statistics & Impact on Children in Poverty

- Cumulative Loss: Low-income students often experience 20% or more learning loss, with losses stacking year over year.
- Achievement Gap: Two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income ninth graders can be attributed to summer learning loss during the elementary years.
- Access to Programs: Only 7% of poor children attend summer day camps compared to 38% of non-poor children.
- Instructional Impact: Nine in ten teachers report needing to spend at least three weeks re-teaching old lessons at the start of the school year.
- Food Insecurity: Low-income students may lose access to free school meals over the summer, exacerbating other issues.

The Chester County Children's Foundation (formerly Hearts in Hands) is dedicated to enriching the lives of children in need in Chester County, providing them with essential programs and services that foster growth and development. Their first initiative is the Honey Brook Day Camp that will be held at our church this summer for six weeks. This camp is designed to nurture curiosity, creativity, and community in children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Every day, campers are provided with healthy and delicious breakfast, lunch, and snacks that are included in the camp tuition. Children will explore the art, music, games, food, and culture of six different countries during the six weeks of camp!

Honey Brook Day Camp is for all children, regardless of income. Several discounts are available to those paying the standard fees. Due to the generous support of the Chester County Children's Foundation, the camp is also able to offer highly subsidized low-cost options to families who qualify.

So, where do the funds come from to offer these low cost options to low-income families?

- grants (our Presbytery has given \$5,000)
- fund raisers (like our spaghetti supper)
- business sponsors
- churches and other non-profits
- individuals

Kim Minor, the Executive Director of CCCF, will be sharing her vision for the Honey Brook Day Camp on April 19 during worship. After hearing her passion for this camp, consider sponsoring a child to attend. This is truly a justice and righteousness ministry. Let's work together to prevent the low-income children in the community from experiencing the "summer slide."

www.chescochildren.org
www.honeybrookdaycamp.org

The graphic features the title "HONEY BROOK DAY CAMP" in large white letters on a dark blue background. A QR code is in the top right. Below the title are three circular photos: children at a table, a child painting, and children playing. A central logo shows a beehive with the text "HONEY BROOK DAY CAMP". A starburst says "10% off register by 3/1". A calendar icon is next to "1-6 WEEKS". At the bottom, "Our Camp Advantages:" lists "Screen Free Fun", "Meals & Snacks", and "Before & After Care Available". "Register Now" includes the website "www.honeybrookdaycamp.org". "Location:" is "4331 Horseshoe Pike, Honey Brook".

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.
April 2	Shepherd’s Kitchen - Eppihimer Fell. Hall	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
April 2	Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service - Communion	7:00 p.m.
April 5	Easter Worship Service - Communion	10:30 a.m.
April 8	Honey Brook Women’s Club - Epp. Fell. Hall	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
April 19	Handbell Choir plays during Worship	10:30 a.m.
April 20	Open Mic Night - Old Fellowship Hall	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
April 26	Session meeting following Coffee Hour	12 noon
June 5	Strawberry Festival - Save the Date	4:30-6:30 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—
Ruthann Kistler
(rhkistler@yahoo.com).

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

Mission and Community Relations—
Keith and Peg Dombach
(pdombach@ptd.net, kdombach@yahoo.com)

Personnel and Administration—Marty Ruser
610-457-4463 with Paul Sweatlock as a liaison
(psweatlock@gmail.com)

Liaison for LM & Chester Co. Children’s Foundation
Chris Masterson
(masterson.chris@gmail.com)

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