

July/August 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

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: HONEY BROOK FOOD PANTRY SEEKING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Honey Brook Food Pantry is seeking school supplies and backpacks to prepare the children of their clients for school this fall. Items needed are listed below. There will be a tub outside of Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations. All donations are needed by Wednesday, July 15. Volunteers will fill the backpacks and have them ready for the July 22 and August 12 distributions.

Elementary school

Erasers
Low odor dry erase markers
Scissors – Fiskars’ kids
Colored pencils
Highlighters
Pocket folders 3-4
Pencil box or zippered large pouch

Middle school

Pencil pouch (not box)
Erasers
Posts-it notes
Composition book
Expo Markers
3-4 pocket folders
Highlighters
Colored pencils
Blue or black pens
Spiral notebooks
Rulers

High school

Mechanical pencils
Pencil pouch (not box)
Ballpoint pens
Colored pencils
Pocket folders
Spiral notebooks
Composition books
Highlighters
Index cards
Ruled paper
Pencils

All Ages

Backpacks



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

We had a great time at movie night in June as we enjoyed watching *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*, a Veggie Tale movie. You have two more opportunities to be part of this fun. Even though these are animated films, they are very entertaining for all ages. Encourage your friends with children to take part in these great opportunities.

- **Saturday, July 18;** 5pm for dinner and 5:30pm for movie.
 - Feature Presentation: a Studio Ghibli film called **Ponyo**, loosely based on Hans Christian Anderson's The Little Mermaid. Ponyo is a little fish girl who meets a five year old boy named Sosuke and decides she wants to be human, too. However, her wish unbalances nature and causes a flood. When Sosuke's mom disappears during the weather emergency, it's up to the kids to figure out how to save the town.
- **Saturday, August 15;** dinner at 5pm, movie at 5:30pm.
 - Feature Presentation: the Pixar film **Finding Nemo**. When a single dad's only son is fish-napped, he has to face dangers, obstacles, and a girl with the memory of a goldfish who never shuts up, in order to mount a rescue.



Please email Aurora Cannon at anthropomorph7@yahoo.com if you are planning to attend. This will help in determining the proper amount of food for the evening. We hope to see all of you at the movies!



Recently, I received a new Bible published by the American Bible Society entitled the Faith and Liberty Bible and it interweaves illustrations from throughout our American history of how our founding fathers and past leaders and presidents utilized the Bible to support their actions and what grounded their thought processes as they bore the burdens of their offices and leadership positions. As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, I thought it was appropriate to share some of these quotes as we celebrate what is good about this nation and as we find ways to lift up what we have in common rather than what divides us! Please excuse the absence of inclusive language in a time when our human identity was expressed in masculine language. So, for your consideration:

Harry S. Truman in 1949 said, *"The American people stand firm in the faith which has inspired this nation from the beginning. We believe that all men (sic) have a right to equal justice under law and equal opportunity to share in the common good. We believe that all men have a right to freedom of thought and expression. We believe that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God. From this faith we will not be moved... Steadfast in our faith in the Almighty, we will advance toward a world where man's freedom is secure."*



In 1785 **George Washington** was a private citizen looking forward to the benefits of peace. This is from a letter to his friend, the Marquis de Lafayette. His peaceful vision is complicated by the reminder that the fertile land Washington discusses – as with the original promised land in his biblical metaphor – was already home to other nations. *"I wish to see the sons and daughters of the world in peace and busily employed in the more agreeable amusement of fulfilling the first and great commandment, Increase and Multiply (Gen. 1:22, 28): as an encouragement to which we have opened the fertile plains of the Ohio to the poor, the needy, (Duet. 15:11) and the oppressed of the Earth; any one therefore who is heavy laden (Mt. 11:28), or who wants land to cultivate, may repair thither and abound, as in the land of promise (Ex. 12:25), with milk and honey (Ex. 3:8): the ways are preparing, and the roads will be made easy (Is. 40:3), through the channels of Potomac and James River."*

Here is an interesting illustration in regard to the quote from **Genesis 4:9**, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Despite the fact that Cain asks this question as a way to avoid responsibility for Abel's murder, many people have answered it with a resounding "Yes!" The question has prompted generations of Americans to pursue a more compassionate society, each of us looking after our fellow human beings as if they were family.

This biblical question has also been raised by presidents to help unify the country. In 1931, in the depths of the Great Depression, President **Herbert Hoover** observed, *"Part of our national suffering today is from failure to observe these primary yet inexorable laws of human relationship. Modern society cannot survive with the defense of Cain, 'Am I my brother's keeper?'"*

In a 1956 speech in Philadelphia, President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** said, *"Freedom is rooted in the certainty that the brotherhood of all men springs from the Fatherhood of God. And thus, even as each man is his brother's keeper, no man is another's master."*

"We must give life to that fundamental belief that I am my brother's keeper, that I am my sister's keeper," said President **Barack Obama** early in his presidency. It was a favorite verse for him, reflecting the reality that *"we all have a responsibility to ourselves and to each other to make a difference that is real and lasting,"* a message he called *"both timeless and universal."*

And finally, a quote from President **George H. W. Bush** in 1989; *"We meet on democracy's front porch (the U.S. Capital's steps). A good place to talk as neighbors and as friends. For this is a day when our nation is made whole, when our differences, for a moment, are suspended. And my first act as President is a prayer. I ask you to bow your heads."*

Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: 'Use power to help people.' For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, not to make a great show in the world, nor a name (Gen. 11:4; 12:2). There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people. Help us remember, Lord. Amen."

He concludes by saying, *"I do not fear what is ahead. For our problems are large, but our heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. And if our flaws are endless, God's love is truly boundless."*

May these thoughts influence our celebrations in this 250th year of our country and may the words of President Bush's prayer be our prayer as well as we move forth as a nation. Have a safe and blessed holiday and summer! See you in Church!!

Peace,
Pastor Bruce

LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Genesis 24:34-67	Genesis 25:19-34	Genesis 28:10-19a	Genesis 29:15-28
Psalms 45: 11-18	Psalms 119:105-112	Psalms 139: 1-11, 22-23	Psalms 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 7:15-25a	Romans 8:1-11	Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Genesis 32:22-31	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Genesis 45:1-15	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Exodus 3:1-15
Psalms 17:1-7, 16	Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22	Psalms 133	Psalms 124	Psalms 105:23-26, 45c
Romans 9:1-5	Romans 10:5-15	Romans 11:1-2, 29-32	Romans 12:1-8	Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15: 10-28	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:21-28

Liturgists		Greeters	
Chris Masterson	July 5	Marie Sole	July 5
Lynn Klumpp	July 12	Bill Klumpp	July 12
Eileen Dillow	June 19	Pat Longabaugh	July 19
Beth Ventrone	June 26	Chris Longabaugh	July 26
Tom Richards	August 2	Marty Ruser	August 2
Carolyn Tate	August 9	Helmut Bartel	August 9
Peg Dombach	August 16	Naomi Miller	August 16
Sue Welsh	August 23	Barb Spirko	August 23
Karen DeAscentiis	August 30	John McDonald	August 30

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A candidate who seemed perfect for us just declined our offer, so we are regrouping and have a second meeting scheduled with another candidate. Please keep praying with us that God connects our church with the right pastor.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastors Bruce and Narda are in Honey Brook on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 2:00. You are welcome to connect with them during this time. Call ahead to confirm their schedule for the day. Narda's phone number is 717-994-4614 and Bruce's phone number is 717-830-2515.

FELLOWSHIP HALL CALENDAR

Please add all events (with times and rooms) to the Fellowship Hall calendar. This central hub prevents double-booking and ensures your event is included in the newsletter.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Mark Your Calendars:

- The Annual Women's Picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00 pm at the home of Sue Welsh located at 914 Reservoir Road, Honey Brook. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided. If you wish, bring a guest and a dish to share. If you have questions, contact Sue at 610-823-7585. Hope to see you on the 21st for good food and a relaxing evening.



Strawberry Festival Update:

Thank you to the women for planning, organizing and overseeing our annual Strawberry Festival. We had quite a crowd with lots of great food, fellowship, and face painting. The profit from the evening was \$1449. The women send most of this money to missions they support. We appreciate all of you who donated food, helped in preparing and serving, and our teens who did lots of face painting. The women could not hold this event without all of your support. Thank you all!



Environmental and Sustainability Tips for Summer

- **Ditch the disposables:** Barbecues and picnics often lead to excessive landfill waste. Swap single-use paper plates and plastic cups for durable, reusable, or commercially compostable tableware.
- **Reef-safe sunscreen:** If you are heading to a pool, lake, or beach, protect your skin using mineral-based sunscreens that are free from oxybenzone and octinoxate, which can harm marine life.
- **Stay hydrated sustainably:** Instead of constantly buying single-use plastic water bottles, fill up a stainless steel or insulated tumbler at home before you head out.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School class continues its study of biblical narratives exploring God's engagement with those outside the Jewish nation. We have been focusing on stories from the Old Testament. For the month of July, we will reflect on Jesus' interaction with non-Jews. **There will be NO Sunday School for the month of August.** We will resume again on September 6. All are welcome to 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.

Elli and Via had fun learning about Pentecost! They celebrated the church's birthday by creating fiery hats and coloring pictures.



SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN



There was no Shepherd's Kitchen in June, but all were invited to come to the Strawberry Festival. There will be no Shepherd's Kitchen in July due to the July 4th holiday. Shepherd's Kitchen will return on August 6 for a picnic meal with hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni salad, chips, pickles, watermelon, ice cream, and all the fixings, too! Come out for the food and fellowship!

The meal is served from 4:30-6:30. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve. Contact Lynn Klumpp (610-761-2606), if you are able to assist.

OPEN MIC NIGHT



June's Open Mic brought out ten people. They had two singers and one drummer. The rest were observers. Illness and vacations kept many away this month but they still had a great time.

Join us for fun nights of entertainment at our next two Open Mics on July 20 and August 17 (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.

HONEY BROOK DAY CAMP

The Honey Brook Day Camp is up and running! There were about 30 children this week who learned all about Mexico. They met an axolotl, learned about Frida Kahlo, the celebrated Mexican painter best known for her vividly colored self-portraits. The children then created their own self-portraits in her style. Every day, each child chose a book from the bookstore to read and add to their home library.



On Thursday, the campers and leaders boarded a school bus and headed to Springton Manor Farm. They got a tour of the animals in the great barn, did a pond study, participated in a scavenger hunt, and identified specimens along the nature trail. Such fun!

This coming week the theme will be the USA! They will focus on celebrating the USA during this 250th anniversary 4th of July week!



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. Any contributions towards this obligation is greatly appreciated. Through the end of June we have received \$593 towards our 2026 commitment of \$2300. Thank you for your support.

Honey Brook Presbyterian Church 2026 Statement of Activities

Date Range: May 1st 2026 - May 31st 2026

Accounts	Actual May 01, 2026 - May 31, 2026	Budget May 01, 2026 - May 31, 2026	Budget Over/Under May 01, 2026 - May 31, 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	7,877.16	9,166.67	(1,289.51)	48,055.20	45,833.35	2,221.85	110,000.00
Designated Funds	0.00	225.00	(225.00)	1,274.60	1,125.00	149.60	2,700.00
Donor Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
Pass Thru	5,239.00	83.33	5,155.67	11,808.00	416.65	11,391.35	27,000.00
Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains,	4,402.65	4,250.83	151.82	13,698.67	13,849.15	(150.48)	23,500.00
Redemptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,000.00
Building Lease	1,565.00	0.00	1,565.00	6,260.00	0.00	6,260.00	14,000.00
Miscellaneous	30.00	216.67	(186.67)	750.00	1,083.35	(333.35)	2,600.00
Total Revenues	\$ 19,113.81	\$ 13,942.50	\$ 5,171.31	\$ 81,846.47	\$ 62,307.50	\$ 19,538.97	\$ 199,400.00
Expenses							
Senior Pastor	4,340.01	7,916.67	3,576.66	22,205.52	39,583.35	17,377.83	95,000.00
Staff Salaries	1,735.99	1,895.99	160.00	8,983.95	9,479.95	496.00	22,752.00
Employer Expenses	132.81	132.67	(0.14)	687.30	663.35	(23.95)	1,592.00
Administrative Expense	801.05	750.00	(51.05)	3,944.94	3,750.00	(194.94)	9,000.00
Designated Funds	(71.50)	125.00	196.50	209.49	625.00	415.51	1,500.00
Worship	766.00	791.67	25.67	2,966.00	3,958.35	992.35	9,500.00
Christian Education	0.00	62.50	62.50	0.00	312.50	312.50	750.00
Church & Community	129.43	75.00	(54.43)	536.35	375.00	(161.35)	900.00
Building & Grounds	2,052.20	4,333.33	2,281.13	18,063.34	21,666.65	3,603.31	52,000.00
Pastor Search (PNC)	61.68	416.67	354.99	887.68	2,083.35	1,195.67	5,000.00
Pass Thru	6,115.00	66.67	(6,048.33)	11,115.00	333.35	(10,781.65)	800.00
Reserve	0.00	50.50	50.50	0.00	252.50	252.50	606.00
Total Expenses	\$ 16,062.67	\$ 16,616.67	\$ 554.00	\$ 69,599.57	\$ 83,083.35	\$ 13,483.78	\$ 199,400.00
Net Total	\$ 3,051.14	(\$ 2,674.17)	\$ 5,725.31	\$ 12,246.90	(\$ 20,775.85)	\$ 33,022.75	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS

- YTD Income is \$19K greater than budget. \$11K of this is due to pass through checks (checks written to the church that are intended for a different recipient, e.g. per capita, CCCF).
- YTD Expense is well under budget in large part due to the fact that we do not yet have a full-time pastor.

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.

July and August Birthdays:

July 1	Chris Martin
July 2	Frank Newlin
July 14	Nancy Supplee
July 23	Corey Klumpp
July 23	Janet Brinton
July 26	Tom Richards
July 27	Linda Baugh
August 2	Barb Spirko
August 5	Sidney Masterson
August 20	Sam Cannon



Chris Masterson's team won the US Adult Soccer Association - Region 1 Over-50 Championship, which his children lovingly refer to as, Old Man Soccer. We are so proud of you, Chris! Keep playing hard. Chris is pictured on the bottom row, 2nd from the right!



Sidney Masterson's 4x400 team received an All County award for having the best time this season, which was also a new school record of 3:56. On the picture below, Sid and her team are pointing out the new record on the Twin Valley High School Girls' Track and Cross-Country board. Congratulations to Sid and her team! Job well done!



July and August Anniversaries:

August 19 Helmut Bartel and Carolyn Tate (1989)



Nancy Supplee's granddaughter, Sierra, graduated from Coatesville Area Senior High School a year early with honors and an Associate's degree. Congratulations, Sierra, on all of your hard work! We wish you well in your future endeavors.



Congratulations to **David Cole and Riley Custer**, who married on May 30 at Lauxmont Farms in Wrightsville. David is the son of Mandy and Dave Podehl and a brother to Alex and Gabe. David was a very active member of our youth group. Best wishes to David and Riley. May God richly bless your marriage.



Leah Kistler, daughter of Ruthann and DJ, has been named the head librarian of the Reading Central Middle School. Leah's goals of upholding strong expectations, developing library visibility, and building a stronger connection with the public library, made her the obvious choice for the position. Congratulations, Leah! Keep working hard with your new responsibilities and make a difference for the teens you serve.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Event	Time
Every Sunday	Sunday School for all ages (NO Sunday School in August)	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 (not meeting in summer)	6:30 p.m.
July 5	Communion during the Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
July 8	Honey Brook Women's Club – Epp. Fell. Hall	6:30-8:00 p.m.
July 18	Summer Dinner & Movie Night: <i>Ponyo</i> – Epp. Fell. Hall	5:00 p.m.
July 20	Open Mic Night – Old Fellowship Hall	6:30-9:30 p.m.
July 27 - Aug. 1	Pastors out of town at church camp	
August 2	Communion during the Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
August 7	Funeral luncheon – Eppihimer Funeral Hall	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
August 12	Honey Brook Women's Club – Epp. Fell. Hall	6:30-8:00 p.m.
August 15	Summer Dinner & Movie Night: <i>Finding Nemo</i> – Epp. Hall	5:00 p.m.
August 17	Life Line Screening – Eppihimer Fellowship Hall	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
August 30	Session Meeting	Following Coffee Hour

LEADERSHIP

For concerns, contact the appropriate member to assist you.

Clerk of Session – Gwynne Sweatlock
(gsweatlock@gmail.com)

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

Caring and Fellowship Ministry – Lynn Klumpp
(lynnklumpp@yahoo.com)

Education and Spiritual Formation – Ruthann Kistler
(rhkistler@yahoo.com)

Mission and Community Relations – Keith and Peg Dombach
(pdombach72@gmail.com)

Building and Grounds – Bill Klumpp
(honeybrookhandyman@gmail.com) (for emergencies text 610-463-4144)

Liason for Personnel and Administration – Paul Sweatlock
(psweatlock@gmail.com)

Liaison for Chester Co. Children's Foundation – Chris Masterson
(masterson.chris@gmail.com)

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