

September 2026

HONEY BROOK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4331 HORSESHOE PIKE

NEWSLETTER

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



Harmony Day will be held on Saturday, September 19 with activities in the Borough and the Township. **Our church will be hosting yard sales, food, and bathroom facilities. Come and support our efforts.** Below are some of the many activities that will be taking place throughout the day. This is a great community event that brings everyone together to celebrate all of Honey Brook for a day!



SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

A DAY OF COMMUNITY, CONNECTION & FUN FOR ALL!



Honey Brook
Community Partnership

REGISTER NOW!



runsignup.com/Race/PA/Narvon/HoneyBrookSweetwaterRun



8AM - 2PM

HB COMMUNITY LIBRARY
BOOK SALE & YARD SALES

Toilet facilities.

687 Compass Rd / Rt 10 South



8AM - 2PM

HOWELL LODGE

Masons will have a Chicken BBQ, yard sale spots available for a donation, Miller Keystone Blood Drive, you can register at HowellLodge405.org to give. Toilet facilities.

YMCA FIT TRUK WILL BE AT HOWELL LODGE!

1505 Walnut St



9AM - 12PM

STATE FARM INSURANCE
FREE PAPER SHREDDING

161 Pequea Ave.



9AM - 2PM

HONEY BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

YARD SALES, FOOD AND TOILET FACILITIES.

4831 Horseshoe Pike



12PM HONEY BROOK COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

SWEETWATER WALK/RUN 5K



7AM

SEPT 18 & 19

HONEY BROOK HARDWARE

YARD SALES, FUN, AND FOOD!

450 Pequea Ave.



GREENSIDE GRILL
50% OFF APPETIZERS



HB BAPTIST CHURCH
BLUEGRASS CONCERT AND BBQ
SUPLEE RD | 12NOON - 5PM



SKATE JAM
AT UMBLE PARK
SUPLEE RD | 12PM - 5PM



Come together. Give back. Have fun.

THAT'S HONEY BROOK HARMONY DAY!





One of the ways I know that the season of fall will soon be here is that I am starting to see certain flowers and plants growing that are prevalent in the fall. One is the dandelion. Yes, even though this flower, not weed, is usually seen in the springtime, it lasts into the fall and seems to have make one last stand into the fall. Every part of the dandelion is edible. The dandelion is a remarkable species of vegetation known by its scientific name: taraxicum. This bright yellow flower is from the same family as the sunflower. A dear friend of mine, Emmy, would say that dandelions were God's flowers. This made me think about the ways that this tenacious little flower can help us glean some meaningful facts for our church life and faith.

The Dandelion has one of the longest flowering seasons of any plant. If we are using the dandelion as a symbol for the church, Honey Brook Presbyterian Church has had a "flowering season" since 1835; that's around 191 years and counting.

Fact: The dandelion is the only flower that represents the 3 celestial bodies of the sun, moon and stars. The yellow flower resembles the sun, the puff ball resembles the moon and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars. In what ways do we see our church as cosmic? The word "limitless" comes to mind when I think of the church as cosmic with its ministries. We know that a dandelion flower reaches a height of 6 to 24 inches, and the roots go as deep as 10 to 15 feet. Dandelions are a perennial plant that grows best in full sun and moist soil. Once the plant is established, though, it can handle shade and water deprivation. This causes us to wonder if our faith is



"established" enough to handle rough "climates". Because a dandelion will produce more seeds than usual if their habitat is disturbed, giving them a competitive edge over other plants in the area. What happens when our faith or congregation is disturbed?

To answer these questions, let's consider that the dandelion, both in its yellow bloom with its root firmly entrenched and its ethereal beauty when it has gone to seed, reminds us that life is simultaneously well-grounded and fleeting. This is not a new lesson. We've heard it many times before, but still it seems to be one of the hardest to master.

You see, we get caught up with the busyness and worries of life and we can be so entrenched with what isn't working or going right that we lose the moments and opportunities slip by. Moments of beauty and fragility, which paradoxically by their brief and precious nature, remind us that life is all too short and soon over, even though at any and every point we are firmly rooted in God. And in God is where we need to stay grounded rather than being blown about by the winds of popular opinion, our fears and failures, and our worries and doubts and whether we are measuring up.

Most of us know that the dandelion flower opens to greet the morning and closes in the evening to go to sleep. This causes us to consider how this pattern of the dandelion represents our invitations to prayer in our lives as persons of faith. Morning - wake up - and firstly acknowledge our Creator God and give thanks for the new day and new possibilities. Evening - close down - preparing for rest and sleep - giving God the thanks for God's constant presence and events of the day and opportunities of service.

Life is meant to be a mixture of stability and motion, a delicate balance of figuring out when to stand still and move on, when to conserve our energies and when to let our good works be scattered to the greatest need. A dandelion seed can travel up to 5 miles before it lands, and these seeds travel in the form of tiny parachutes. What are the currents that carry the seeds that our church sows and in what ways has our faith spread or served as little parachutes? Examples: Sunday school, Shepherd's Kitchen, Open Mic, Honey Brook Day Camp, Presbyterian Women, and special church offerings.

Life and faith require the solid nature of the yellow dandelion and the ephemeral quality of the dandelion gone to seed. After landing, the seeds can sprout right on the soil's surface at any time of year, which allows new plants to grow easily. What kinds of soil have we here at Honey Brook Presbyterian Church? How have we seen God's seeds take root? The taproot of the dandelion is very useful to reduce compaction in garden soil. Dandelions are dynamic accumulators – that means they can draw nutrients such as nitrogen from the soil and concentrate them in their leaves and roots. You see, dynamic accumulators are like the miners of the plant world. They go down deep, gather valuable nutrients, and deposit them on the surface. This action is healing to the soil and increases its fertility over time. They can be simply left to naturally shed their accumulated goodies in their immediate vicinity, or they can be harvested and they can be transported to another location to improve that area. The nutrient and mineral content of these plants can be fertilized in compost, compost teas, as mulch, or in a chop-n-drop scenario. The end result is increased fertility and healthier plant and soil life. So, what other ministry opportunities should we be praying about and asking God to help us discern for this church?

Finally, consider how the dandelion is the first bloom to appear in the spring, the last to leave in the fall. It pushes its head up through the tiniest cracks of hard, dry asphalt; it can withstand a hard frost and even an early snowstorm. Regardless of how we feel about the dandelion, the one thing we can agree on is that it is tenacious!

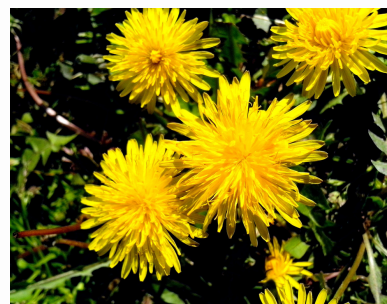
The name dandelion is taken from the French word “dent de lion” meaning lion's tooth, referring to the coarsely-toothed leaves. There are references to Jesus symbolized as a lion. In C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Jesus is Aslan, the Lion. So as the body of Christ, we are to be an example of our “lion's tooth.”

I cannot think of a better quality of life and faith than this tenacity: Hanging in there, even thriving through the daily grind, the tough, weather-beaten, world-wearying times of life, against difficult odds and efforts to do harm. Even when life is going well, we need that tenacity to keep us from boredom, or from being less than enthusiastic, and grateful for all our many blessings in life.

Dandelions inhabit different habitats that provide enough sunlight: Meadows, grasslands, edges of the forest, gardens, and lawns. We in the church need to reach out beyond that which is comfortable for us and familiar and realize that if we stay within our own habitat (church building), we lose more than just the opportunity to grow and reach those in need. We may miss an opportunity to bring healing into another life. Dandelion blossoms have been historically used to treat warts, clear skin complexion, and heal blisters. We in the church can be agents of healing, to create a vortex to aid in the spread of the Gospel. The space between the fringes of a dandelion seed creates a vortex which allows it to hover and go great distances on a current of air.

Dandelions are, quite possibly, the most successful plants that exist, masters of survival worldwide. Is our faith, our church, an example of “masters of survival” worldwide? The average American recognizes thousands of logos for commercial products yet recognizes fewer than 5 plants that grow in his/her area. Dandelions are most likely one of those familiar plants. Are we here at Honey Brook Presbyterian Church like the dandelion – one of the most familiar things in the area?

So, let us consider the dandelion. Like many of God's gifts in creation to us, the dandelion may not at first, appear to be a blessing. Still, this flower has much to teach us. May the dandelion invite us to keep looking for God's wisdom and presence in unexpected yet quite ordinary ways.



Blessings for the journey,

Pastor Narda

LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Exodus 12:1-14	Exodus 14:19-31	Exodus 16:2-15	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalms 149	Psalms 114	Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45	Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16
Romans 13:8-14	Romans 14:1-12	Philippians 1:21-30	Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 18:15-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 20:1-16	Matthew 21:23-32

Liturgists		Greeters	
Eileen Dillow	September 6	Marie Sole	September 6
Beth Ventrone	September 13	Chris Martin	September 13
Lynn Kump	September 20	Bill Klumpp	September 20
Chris Masterson	September 27	Ruthann Kistler	September 27

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We invite the congregation to continue praying for wisdom and discernment for the PNC. We are in conversation with another candidate. Please keep praying with us that God connects our church with the right pastor.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- **Mark Your Calendars:** The PW Fall Resource Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 17 at Wayside Presbyterian Church in Landisville. Registration form and program information will be available soon. Mark your calendar now!
- **PW Mission Update:** Last year, through the PW and our church family, funds were donated and given to the "Pine Ridge Reservation" for the construction of little houses. Good news has recently been received that several families have moved into the little round homes and have saved considerably as the homes are energy efficient. Crews of workers are earning wages and acquiring valuable construction skills. Thank you for supporting our mission projects. We look forward to new and worthy opportunities.



Environmental and Sustainability Tips for September

- **Clean and test your furnace:** Throughout the year, your furnace collects lots of dust and debris, both of which can affect the furnace's performance and could even cause a fire. Clean out or replace your furnace filter regularly, about every three months, and get your furnace serviced by a professional before the cold weather calls.
- **Stay warm without using the thermostat:** As the temperatures outside start to drop, we tend to directly reach the thermostat. Before you do that, make sure you layer with sweaters, thick socks, and extra blankets. You'll be saving energy and heating costs!
- **Garden and Yard Care:** Plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils and tulips in the fall, to have early pollinators in the spring.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes on **September 6** after a break for the month of August. The Adult Sunday School class is going to begin something new. We will be using **The Wired Word**, where we will take a current event in the news and analyze it in a Biblical context. We will give a quick summary of the news item and then will look at scriptures to help us see how the news fits into a Biblical perspective. We will hopefully have lots of discussion.

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.

These pictures were taken during summer Sunday School.



SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN



After a break of 2 months, Shepherd's Kitchen was back with our favorite picnic meal. It was a beautiful night and we had a good crowd with a table of new faces! Guests enjoyed grilled burgers, hot dogs, macaroni salad, watermelon, baked beans, and ice cream sundaes with all the fixings! We even had a new volunteer, beautiful flower arrangements and a new rolling cart. Thanks, Linda, for the beautiful flowers from your garden!



The next Shepherd's Kitchen is Thursday, September 3. 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



In July, 26 people came to Open Mic. There were 8 performers and 18 observers, six who were new! We were Celebrating the life of Roadman - Dave Mantz. Our Open Mic was his idea in April 2024. His decorated guitar case was displayed with CD's, guitar pics, and pamphlets to take! We also celebrated our drummer, Christian's, 27th birthday!

In August, we had a blinding downpour but that didn't stop 17 music lovers from coming! We started a little late, as people trickled in after the rain stopped. We had 7 performers, one of which was a new, amazing pianist! Thanks to Marty for the yummy pies!

Join us for a fun night of entertainment at our next Open Mic on September 21 (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.



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. Through the end of July we have received \$710 towards our 2026 commitment of \$2300 per capita. Thank you for your offering towards this obligation.

Honey Brook Presbyterian Church 2026 Statement of Activities

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

Accounts	Actual Jul 01, 2026 - Jul 31, 2026	Budget Jul 01, 2026 - Jul 31, 2026	Budget Over/Under Jul 01, 2026 - Jul 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	14,605.10	9,166.67	5,438.43	76,419.43	64,166.69	12,252.74	110,000.00
Designated Funds	0.00	225.00	(225.00)	1,274.60	1,575.00	(300.40)	2,700.00
Donor Restricted	450.00	0.00	450.00	450.00	0.00	450.00	1,600.00
Pass Thru	26,102.73	83.33	26,019.40	37,949.73	583.31	37,366.42	27,000.00
Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains,	552.10	573.33	(21.23)	14,251.00	14,423.31	(172.31)	23,500.00
Redemptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,000.00
Building Lease	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	9,260.00	4,000.00	5,260.00	14,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	216.67	(216.67)	1,600.00	1,516.69	83.31	2,600.00
Total Revenues	\$ 43,709.93	\$ 12,265.00	\$ 31,444.93	\$ 141,204.76	\$ 86,265.00	\$ 54,939.76	\$ 199,400.00
Expenses							
Senior Pastor	5,909.28	7,916.67	2,007.39	32,505.40	55,416.69	22,911.29	95,000.00
Staff Salaries	1,769.99	1,895.99	126.00	12,439.93	13,271.93	832.00	22,752.00
Employer Expenses	135.41	132.67	(2.74)	951.69	928.69	(23.00)	1,592.00
Administrative Expense	534.12	750.00	215.88	5,463.43	5,250.00	(213.43)	9,000.00
Designated Funds	0.00	125.00	125.00	459.49	875.00	415.51	1,500.00
Worship	375.00	791.67	416.67	4,134.38	5,541.69	1,407.31	9,500.00
Christian Education	0.00	62.50	62.50	0.00	437.50	437.50	750.00
Church & Community	0.00	75.00	75.00	536.35	525.00	(11.35)	900.00
Building & Grounds	2,522.87	4,333.33	1,810.46	21,703.47	30,333.31	8,629.84	52,000.00
Pastor Search (PNC)	0.00	416.67	416.67	887.68	2,916.69	2,029.01	5,000.00
Pass Thru	0.00	66.67	66.67	11,115.00	466.69	(10,648.31)	800.00
Reserve	0.00	50.50	50.50	0.00	353.50	353.50	606.00
Total Expenses	\$ 11,246.67	\$ 16,616.67	\$ 5,370.00	\$ 90,196.82	\$ 116,316.69	\$ 26,119.87	\$ 199,400.00
Net Total	\$ 32,463.26	(\$ 4,351.67)	\$ 36,814.93	\$ 51,007.94	(\$ 30,051.69)	\$ 81,059.63	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS

- YTD Income is \$54K 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).
- We also received the final payment of \$26K from a bequest.

Thank You...

To my HBPC family and friends,

Your kindness, generosity and overall support during the past few weeks since Dave's death is greatly appreciated. Thank you for being an amazing and caring lifeline as we navigate this life transition. Dave and I have truly been blessed to be part of the HBPC family.

On behalf of the Mantz, Newlin, and VanDerLinden families

September Birthdays:

September 1	Carolyn Tate
September 2	Gwynne Sweatlock
September 4	Mary Cline
September 6	Karen DeAscentiis
September 10	Chuck Bachman
September 14	Linda Jackaway
September 24	Ruthann Kistler
September 27	Sam Massey



September Anniversaries:

September 3 Keith and Peg Dombach (1977)

*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.*

Joyous Occasions

Emme McDonald, granddaughter of **John and Barbara McDonald**, and daughter to Matt and Tara McDonald graduated from high school this spring and just left for Duquesne University in Pittsburgh to study nursing. Congratulations on your graduation and our best wishes to you as you begin your college journey.



Kayla Klumpp is now a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (FAAOMPT). This indicates she is an expert in orthopaedic manual physical therapy, which utilizes a more in-depth approach for assessment and hands-on treatment compared to traditional outpatient physical therapy. She is NAIOMT's 222nd graduate in the United States. This title took her a total of 12 years of school to obtain.

Kayla works for Philo Physical Therapy at their Honey Brook location, helping others get out of pain and achieve their physical goals.

Congratulations, Kayla, in accomplishing this incredible goal!



Mia, granddaughter of **Tom Richards** comes to church when she stays overnight with her grandparents. Thank you, Pastor Narda, for always making her feel welcome. Grandchildren are such a special blessing!

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 (starting September 2)	6:30 p.m.
September 3	Shepherd's Kitchen – Epp. Fell. Hall	4:30-6:30 p.m.
September 6	Communion during the Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
September 9	Honey Brook Women's Club – Epp. Fell. Hall	6:30-8:00 p.m.
September 21	Open Mic Night – Old Fellowship Hall	6:30-9:30 p.m.
September 27	Session Meeting – Epp. Fell. Hall (tentative date)	12 noon

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: World Communion Offering

October 4 is World Communion Sunday. *"What does the Lord require of you... to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God..." (Micah 6:8)* The prophet Micah call us to recognize the inherent worth of every person, to practice welcome and to make room at the table for all God's children.

This year marks the first time congregations across the PCUSA are invited to receive the World Communion Offering. Through this new Offering, we join with other congregations in supporting the wider church in the work of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

In a world that often feels divided, this Offering helps us remember that we belong to one another, even to people we may never meet. We will have envelopes in the bulletin on Sunday, **October 4** for this offering. We are letting you know about this mission opportunity this month, so you are prepared to give on **October 4**.

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)