

HONEY BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



PO Box 276, Honey Brook, PA 19344

610-273-2848 or 717-994-4614



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OTHERS THIS SEASON!

HAT AND MITTEN TREE

The final count of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and pajamas was 196 items. All of these items were taken to the Honey Brook Food Pantry and were available to clients during the month of December. Thank you for helping to keep others warm during this winter season.



SPECIAL HONEY BROOK FOOD PANTRY DONATION

Recognizing the need for food assistance in our community, the session voted to take the offerings from December 21 and the Christmas Eve Service, match it up to \$1,500 and send this donation to the Food Pantry. Along with a \$500 Donation from Freedom Village, the church was able to send a check for \$4,496.50. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

HONEY BROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT TOY DRIVE

Two barrels of new toys and games were donated to the Honey Brook Police Department to be given to children in the community. Thank you for making the Christmas of these children a special one.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Through the leadership of Chris Martin, twenty-five shoeboxes were filled with toiletries, toys, and activities, and sent to children in need around the world.

CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT (formerly, Hearts in Hands)

On December 13 we hosted families at our church for a special Christmas event. Children met in the Old Fellowship Hall to make and wrap gifts for family members. Adults met in the new Fellowship Hall to create stocking stuffers for their children. After crafting, everyone made their way to the sanctuary to re-create the Christmas story, complete with props and costumes. We then gathered downstairs for a taco bowl meal prepared and served by our members. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited during the meal, giving a special gift of school supplies and a storybook to the children. We had 37 people attend the event and 25 helpers who assisted with the crafts, stories, and food. Thank you for helping us to reach out into the community with the love of Jesus..



From the Pastor's Desk...

I am sitting here admiring Linda's and my beautiful Christmas tree. A few weeks earlier we pulled it out of storage and began to decorate it with ornaments and it won't be very long before we start taking them off and put it all away until next year.

Some of those ornaments came from Linda's life before we were married and some came from mine. Sharing the stories and memories behind each ornament helped us to learn things about our lives prior to our coming together.

And then there are the many ornaments that we have obtained since our marriage which help us remember the places we have visited together and the wonderful years we have shared. Each year we gain two or three new ones which often means letting go of a few old ones. The decision about which ones get taken off the tree and which ones stay is usually determined by how precious or important the memory attached to the ornament is.

This year one of the new ornaments was given to me early in my time as your interim pastor. It is a glass ball from an anniversary celebration in 2010 with a sketch of the church on it. Little did I know at the time how many precious memories would get attached to that ball, enough so that I'm sure that it will be back on our tree every year and will remind me of the 12 months we spent together in 2025.

Laughter and tears; worship and celebration; challenges and blessings; activities and prayers; all that and more will dangle from a branch on our Tannenbaum in Decembers to come. Don't worry, I'll put it high enough to keep it safe from clumsy little granddaughter hands until they are old enough to hear the stories of my days with the good Christian folks of the Honey Brook Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly and openly, for putting up with me so patiently, and affirming me so kindly. You are a special group of people in God's eyes and in mine. I believe in your future and will continue keeping you in my prayers, and in my memories with the help of a shiny glass ball.

Pastor Ed

We have been so very blessed to have pastor Ed lead our church during 2025. What was supposed to be 6 months or less ended up being the entire year, thanks to his generous offer to see us through until the end of the year, if necessary. We wish we could keep him. Pastor Ed's final Sunday with us was December 28. We had a special Coffee Hour for him after the service.

We appreciate your time and ministry with us. We will miss you!

Your Honey Brook Presbyterian Church Family



Welcome

We are so excited to officially welcome to our church Bruce and Narda Druckenmiller. Together, they will serve as our interim pastors beginning on January 1. They are no strangers to most of us, since Narda has filled the pulpit numerous times this past summer.

Narda grew up in our church until she was a junior in high school, when her family moved to New Holland. While living there, she attended St. Stephen's UCC, where she was a ringer in their Bell Choir. While Bruce was a seminary student at Lancaster Theological Seminary, he met Narda when the St. Stephen's Bell Choir played for an event for the spouses of the seminary students. He was unmarried at the time but was told that there were some eligible bell ringers, and the rest is history. Narda and Bruce were married and are parents to three children: Nathan Jackson, Rachel Elizabeth, and Andrew Bruce. They are also grandparents to Landon and Louis.

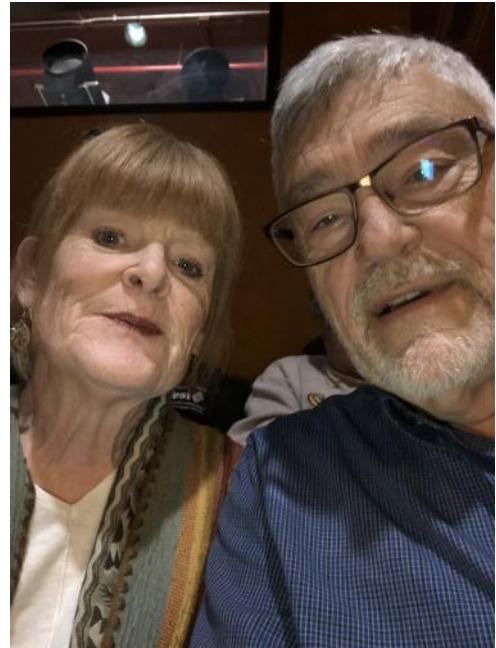
Bruce is also very musical. He attended the Valley Forge Military Academy for one year on a band scholarship. His main instrument is trumpet. While he was there, he received the call to ministry. He transferred to Lebanon Valley College and graduated with a BA in religion. From there he went on to Lancaster Theological Seminary. His first pastoral call was to St. Paul's UCC in East Canton, OH. Bruce went on to serve as pastor in Williamsport, Waynesboro, and was also the Director of The Hartman Center, a UCC camp in Milroy, PA, for 14 years. Bruce received his doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from Eastern Baptist Seminary, which is now Palmer Theological Seminary, in Philadelphia. He has never officially worked as a counselor but uses these skills in all of his ministries

Narda loved being a pastor's wife and supported Bruce in his pastoral ministries. She had various responsibilities in the churches they served but also worked in a Christian bookstore and as the secretary for the UCC Ministry Association. Just as Bruce received the call to ministry, so did Narda. She enrolled in a five-year program at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, PA. She took classes on weekends and continued her studies for 5 years until she became a licensed minister. She was called to serve two churches at the same time. One was in Madisonburg and the other in Rebersburg, two rural communities in Centre County. One service started at 8:30. She would leave during the last hymn to arrive at the next church during their announcements. She also served Church of the Apostles in Waynesboro.

Bruce and Narda retired from full-time ministry and relocated to Mount Joy to be closer in distance to their children and to their extended families.

God has been so faithful providing someone for us each time we lose one of our interims. I see God's hand in the coming of Narda and Bruce. When asked what ministry strengths they will bring to Honey Brook, Bruce did not hesitate to say that Narda is great at pastoral care, a skill that is so needed in our congregation. Bruce feels that his strength is in community building. And, isn't that what we are trying to do here in Honey Brook? God always provides. We must continue to trust his timing and providence.

We look forward to Narda and Bruce's ministry with us. God is good!



"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:19

LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

| January 4 | January 11 | January 18 | January 25 |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Isaiah 42:1-9 | Isaiah 49:1-7 | Isaiah 9:1-4 |
| Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a | Acts 10:34-43 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 |
| Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 | Matthew 3:13-17 | John 1:29-42 | Matthew 4:12-23 |
| or Luke 2:41-52 | Psalm 29 | Psalm 40:1-12 | Psalm 27:1, 5-13 |
| Psalm 84 or 84:1-8 | | | |

Liturgists

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Carolyn Tate | January 4 |
| Lynn Klumpp | January 11 |
| Gwynne Sweatlock | January 18 |
| Karen DeAscentiis | January 25 |

Greeters

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Ruthann Kistler and Naomi Miller | January 4 |
| Bill Klumpp and Logan Emery | January 11 |
| Bob and Ruth Snader | January 18 |
| Barb Spirko | January 25 |

OPEN MIC NIGHT—"The Back Door"



Despite 21 degrees and snow flurries, sixteen people showed up for December's Open Mic Night. There were seven performers, one of them being new. Five new observers came to check things out. We enjoyed the variety of Christmas songs, including a Hawaiian Christmas song on ukulele! The next Open Mic Night will be January 19 (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



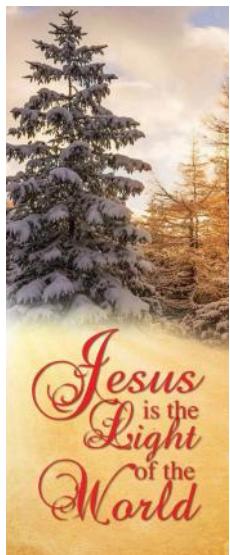
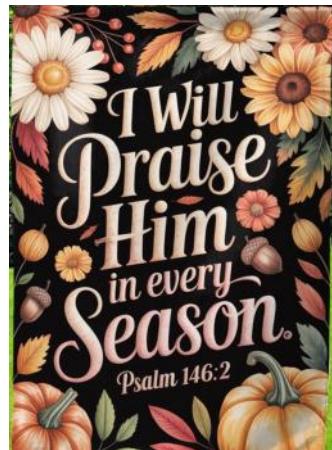
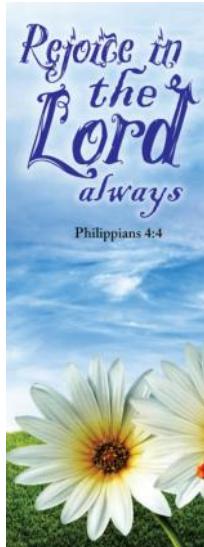
December's Shepherd Kitchen again had a good turn out! We have seen many new faces, too! We were very happy to have Aurora and son Sam join us as servers as we were down seven helpers. We were able to give away a turkey dinner due to a donation from Linda Jackaway!

We will not be serving a Shepherd's Kitchen meal in January due to the New Year's holiday. The volunteers plan to take this break to attend a lunch to share ideas and enjoy fellowship. February 5 will be the next Shepherd's Kitchen meal.

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.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

You will notice throughout the seasons we will have some new banners in the sanctuary. Also new, is a set of battery operated candles for the Advent wreath. Memorial money given in memory of Stella Reber made these gifts possible.



UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

Thank you to all who helped to decorate and beautify the church for the celebration of Advent and Christmas. On **Sunday, January 11**, following Worship Service, we must take all of the decorations down and store them for next year.

We ask for your help with this project. The more we have, the faster it will go. Thank you in advance for helping with this project.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Women's Association has received Thank you notes from the following:

- ◆ **The Free Wheelchair Mission:** Thank you for your recent gift to our mission. Your sustained partnership with us helps us to continue serving individuals and communities in need, in developing countries around the world.
- ◆ **The Honey Brook Library:** On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your generous support of our Capital Campaign. Your contribution plays a vital role in helping us meet the needs of our growing community.
- ◆ We also supported **Water Street Mission, City Gate, Salvation Army, Honey Brook Food Pantry, and Karitas Mission.**



The income from the Strawberry Festival allows us to support these missions.

Thank You...

Three years ago we didn't know if our congregation would still be standing. Standing we are, and strongly. Sam helped us find the glue of the Holy Spirit. Our church family began bonding more and more as time went by.

When I broke my shoulder. I experienced the love of our church family in ways too many to list. I am so very grateful to all of you. Our glue still holds strong.

With love,

Beth Ventrone

SUNDAY SCHOOL—"The Chosen"—Season 5

The Chosen is a historical drama series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the first century. The series depicts Jesus's life through the eyes of the people who interacted with him. Season 5 covers Jesus's final week in Jerusalem, from his Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday) through the events leading to the Passion, focusing on the escalating tensions, cleansing of the Temple, and the disciples' confusion as danger nears, culminating in Judas's conflicted kiss before Jesus's arrest, setting the stage for the final Passion week.

For the month of January we will discuss the first four episodes. This has been a very popular study for many. 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.

January 4—Episode 1: *Entry*

January 11—Episode 2: *House of Cards*

January 18—Episode 3: *Woes*

January 25—Episode 4: *The Same Coin*



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 Statement of Activities

Date Range: Nov 1st 2025 - Nov 30th 2025

| Accounts | Actual | Budget | Budget | Actual | Budget | Budget | Annual |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Nov 01, 2025 - Nov 30, 2025 | Nov 01, 2025 - Nov 30, 2025 | Over/Under Nov 01, 2025 - Nov 30, 2025 | This Year Year to Date | This Year Year to Date | Over/Under This Year Year to Date | Budget This Year Year |
| Revenues | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | 9,449.41 | 10,944.17 | (1,494.76) | 117,377.80 | 120,385.87 | (3,008.07) | 131,330.00 |
| Designated Funds | 320.00 | 225.00 | 95.00 | 2,010.00 | 2,475.00 | (465.00) | 2,700.00 |
| Donor Restricted | 850.00 | 125.00 | 725.00 | 5,905.00 | 1,375.00 | 4,530.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Pass Thru | 0.00 | 108.34 | (108.34) | 21,012.00 | 1,191.74 | 19,820.26 | 1,300.00 |
| Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains, Redemptions | 8,805.00 | 1,834.16 | 6,970.84 | 27,023.34 | 20,175.76 | 6,847.58 | 22,010.00 |
| Building Lease | 1,165.00 | 3,950.00 | (5,550.00) | 0.00 | 28,062.00 | (28,062.00) | 33,612.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 250.00 | 216.67 | 33.33 | 2,400.00 | 2,383.37 | 16.63 | 2,600.00 |
| Total Revenues | \$ 20,839.41 | \$ 22,953.34 | (\$ 2,113.93) | \$ 199,338.14 | \$ 207,648.74 | (\$ 8,310.60) | \$ 234,552.00 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | |
| Senior Pastor | 3,836.84 | 11,782.99 | 7,946.15 | 30,266.62 | 91,116.89 | 60,850.27 | 102,900.00 |
| Staff Salaries | 812.66 | 812.66 | 0.00 | 9,689.26 | 21,939.26 | 12,250.00 | 22,752.00 |
| Employer Expenses | 62.17 | 175.00 | 112.83 | 683.87 | 1,925.00 | 1,241.13 | 2,100.00 |
| Administrative Expense | 368.94 | 1,000.00 | 631.06 | 7,631.59 | 11,000.00 | 3,368.41 | 12,000.00 |
| Designated Funds | 423.44 | 125.00 | (298.44) | 1,766.00 | 1,375.00 | (391.00) | 1,500.00 |
| Worship | 500.00 | 816.67 | 316.67 | 9,107.74 | 8,983.37 | (124.37) | 9,800.00 |
| Christian Education | 190.00 | 12.50 | (177.50) | 550.00 | 737.50 | 187.50 | 750.00 |
| Church & Community | 240.89 | 83.34 | (157.55) | 626.55 | 916.74 | 290.19 | 1,000.00 |
| Building & Grounds | 2,818.87 | 5,741.67 | 2,922.80 | 95,197.49 | 62,658.37 | (32,539.12) | 68,600.00 |
| Pastor Search (PNC) | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 129.06 | 11,000.00 | 10,870.94 | 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 | 1,054.13 | 1,054.13 | 1,150.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 9,253.81 | \$ 21,645.66 | \$ 12,391.85 | \$ 156,363.18 | \$ 212,706.26 | \$ 56,343.08 | \$ 234,552.00 |
| Net Total | \$ 11,585.60 | \$ 1,307.68 | \$ 10,277.92 | \$ 42,974.96 | (\$ 5,057.52) | \$ 48,032.48 | \$ 0.00 |

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS:

- Envelope income is \$4K under budget YTD
- Building lease income is \$8K under budget
- Total income is \$8K under budget YTD
- Total income is \$43K over Total Expense YTD

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. The Charity Fund has been used during 2025.

January Birthdays:

January 8—Emma Bachman
January 12—Don Means
January 15—Barbara McDonald
January 15—Lydia Newlin
January 23—Helmut Bartel
January 27—Nancy Stroup
January 30—Fran Fetterhoff



January Anniversaries:

January 9—Jim and Agnes Supplee (1960)
January 25—Bill and Lynn Klumpp (1991)

Please contact Karen DeAscentiis
(kdeascentis@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.*

Congratulations!

Peg Bader has added two new great grandchildren to her family. Last month we posted the picture of her one great grandson and said that the other baby was a little girl. I was mistaken. The second great grandchild was another boy who was born about a week after the first one. This little one was born on October 30 weighing in at 8 lbs. 7 oz. Congratulate Peg on her other little great grandson.



Colin Klumpp, son of Corey and Liz turned one year old in November. Colin started walking before he had his birthday. I'm sure their home is very busy with two little boys running around. The next time you see Colin, wish him a belated happy birthday!



Pierson Bear George Kistler, son of Mason and Madzie, was born on Saturday, December 27 at 6:38 am. Pierson weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz and was 21 inches long. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Paisley. What a sweet little blessing for this family. Congratulations to grandparents, Ruthann and DJ and great-grandmother, Naomi.



Dave and Norma Mantz became great-grandparents on Christmas Day when their grandson, Seth and his wife Kat, had their first child, Sawyer Marshall VanDerLinden. Congratulations to Dave and Norma and the entire family.



No doubt about it: children are a gift from the LORD;; the fruit of the womb is a divine reward. Psalm 127:3 (CEB)

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. |
| January 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR! | |
| January 1 | NO Shepherd's Kitchen in January | |
| January 4 | Communion during Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| January 11 | Undecorate after Worship | 12 noon |
| January 19 | Open Mic Night—Old Fellowship Hall | 6:30 pm—9:30 pm |

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.



Three new elders will be joining the Session in 2026. Those who have accepted the call to leadership are Bill Klumpp, Marty Ruser, and Ruthann Kistler. Once responsibilities have been assigned, we will update the roles of each of the session members below. Going off the board of elders are Paul Sweatlock and Chris Masterson. We thank them for their leadership and commitment to our church.

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)