November 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



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m. So, turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, October 31, or you will be very early for church on Sunday morning. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Hat and Mitten Tree



In order to spread our mission focuses throughout the year, the Hat and Mitten Tree donations will be collected during the month of November. Items donated will be distributed at the Honey Brook Food Pantry in late November and early December. **LET'S FILL THE TREE** with donations of hats, mittens, socks, pajamas, etc. for children in the Honey Brook area. The tree and a collection box will be in the Fellowship Hall foyer.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Items for our Operation Christmas Child boxes have been acquired by Chris Martin, and the boxes were packed on Sunday, October 25. The cost of shipping a box is $10 and we have 25 boxes to send. We are seeking donations of $250, to meet our shipping costs. See Chris with your donations! Thank you for your continued support with this outreach project and a special thank you to Chris Martin for her leadership with this ministry to children!

DECORATING THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS



Advent begins on November 29 but we are going to wait until December 6 to decorate the church for Christmas. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay after worship to join in the fun of decorating! We can certainly use as many hands as possible.

POLICE DEPARTMENT TOY DRIVE

We will once again be supporting the Honey Brook Police Department Toy Drive for Christmas. We are reminding you of this in November since so many toy sales occur around Thanksgiving. **Please consider donating gifts for older children between the ages of 8 -15. Some gifts to consider are: board games, sports balls, and other outdoor equipment (nerf, frisbee), jewelry, craft kits, and gift cards.** We will have a barrel in the entryway by Eppihimer Fellowship Hall for the donations through December 20. The police will deliver these gifts to families in the community who can benefit from some Christmas cheer. Thank you for your support.

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6 & 7

Recently Pastor Bruce and I returned to our second church, New Covenant United Church of Christ in Williamsport, PA, for the 50th Anniversary celebration of two churches coming together fifty years ago to form one church. It was a wonderful day of celebrating and remembering the ministries of that church over the years, and the many people, or saints as we often refer to them, who shared in those vital ministries.

One of those saints was a lady named Lillian. Lillian truly believed in service to her Lord, church, family, and community. She was the mother of four children; to which she out lived three. One can only imagine her deep pain and sadness. What I never will forget is when Lilian came to Bible Study one evening and shared what she had found in her son, Randy's, night table by his bed. She found a small paper that looked as if it came from a devotional booklet. The title on the paper read: My Daily Prayer. I'd like to share the prayer with you:

"I thank Thee, Father in heaven, for the grace that brought me to this day. I now entrust myself anew to Thy protection, care, and guidance. Keep me this day from the temptation to speak a careless or bitter word. May I give no encouragement to twisted thoughts or angry actions. And when this day shall come to its close, may I remember with gratitude all those whose faithful work and gracious friendship made it a pleasure. Of Thee I ask forgiveness of my own shortcomings and a peaceful trust in Thy continued care, through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

You see, Randy didn't make it to church due to receiving kidney dialysis five days a week. And when the weekend came, he was so exhausted from the dialysis that it seemed all he could do was rest. Lillian often shared how she wished he would attend church but knew the challenge. But when she found that little paper with this meaningful prayer that day, well, it was such "good medicine" for her grieving heart. And it certainly was an amazing testimony to our Bible Study group when she shared this with us. I have used this prayer most mornings and remember both Lillian and Randy with deep love and gratitude.

In his book, Abba's Child, Brennan Manning tells the true story of visiting a man dying of cancer. When Manning enters the bedroom of the man, he notices an empty chair pulled up right next to the bed and asks if the man was expecting a visitor. The dying man smiles and explains that for years, he struggled to pray because he found formal prayers dry and confusing. A friend finally gave him this advice: "Prayer is just talking to Jesus. Sit down, put an empty chair in front of you, look at it, imagine Jesus sitting there, and just speak to Him from your heart."

The man confesses he had been doing this for decades, though he kept it a secret from his daughter because he feared she would think he had lost his mind. Days later, the daughter called Manning with a startling update: her father passed away peacefully while she was out of the room. When she had come back into her father's room, his head was resting comfortably, not on his pillows, but leaning over, resting directly on the empty chair in his room.

These two stories highlight the power, importance, comfort, the intimacy and the transformational quality of prayer in people's lives. Both Pastor Bruce and I want you all to know that if at any time you feel a need for prayer and would like to have prayer with either of us on any Sunday or Tuesday when we are at the church, please let us know and we will take time to be in prayer with you. My hope is that we might even start a prayer group at HBPC that gathers weekly to pray for the needs of the church. Let's all PULL UP A CHAIR!

Blessings for the journey,

Pastor Narda

LECTIONARY READINGS (week of . . .)

November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Revelation 7:9-17	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-24	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 34:1-10, 22	Psalm 78:1-7	Psalm 123	Psalm 100	I Corinthians 1:3-9
I John 3:1-3	I Tessalonians 4:13-18	I Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23	Mark 13:24-37
Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46	Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

Liturgists		Greeters	
Chris Masterson	November 1	Bob Snader	November 1
Beth Ventrone	November 8	Marty Ruser	November 8
Eileen Dillow	November 15	Logan Emery	November 15
Carolyn Tate	November 22	Helmut Bartel	November 22
Karen DeAscentiis	November 29	Chris Martin	November 29

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear Church Family,

As the Pastor Nominating Committee continues this important work, we are deeply grateful for the love, prayers, patience, and encouragement you have shown us along the way. This process is both a sacred responsibility and a significant undertaking, and knowing that our congregation is walking beside us makes all the difference.

We have been blessed by your kind words, your willingness to trust the process, and most importantly, your faithful prayers. Time and again, we are reminded that this is not just the work of a committee, but the work of an entire church family seeking God's guidance together.

While we may not always have new updates to share, please know that we are actively engaged in discerning God's direction for our congregation's future. We approach each step prayerfully, asking for wisdom, clarity, and openness to where the Holy Spirit is leading.

Thank you for continuing to lift up the committee, our church, and the person God is preparing to serve among us. We are encouraged by your steadfast support and inspired by the faith that unites us.

God is still at work. We trust that He is guiding this journey, and we are grateful to be traveling it together with all of you.

Blessings to all
-Karen, Logan, Kayla, Chris, and Gwynne



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight"
Proverbs 3:5-6

SUNDAY SCHOOL





The Adult Sunday School class is continuing its study using **The Wired Word**, a curriculum that connects current news events with a Biblical context. Each week, we listen to a brief summary of a news item and look to Scripture to help us understand and discuss the event from a Biblical perspective.

Take a look at the photos to the right of our wonderful children's class! They recently studied the story of how David was anointed as king, learning a powerful lesson along the way: we shouldn't judge others by how they look on the outside, because God chooses us based on what is in our hearts.

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.

FRANK NEWLIN'S CELEBRATION

Thank you to all who came out on Saturday, October 10 to honor and thank Frank for his years of service to our church in music ministry. Frank was our organist for 42 years. Together with his wife, Pat, they lead our choir and were instrumental in organizing special music to enhance our worship of God. We truly appreciate the Newlin family and their musical talents.

We enjoyed an evening of delicious food, great fellowship, and wonderful stories celebrating Frank's many contributions to our church family. Frank, you will always be in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your faithful service!











SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN

October's meal was a little slow due to the New Holland Fair - same as last year. Our guests enjoyed regular chili and vegetable chili, salad, applesauce, bread, and spider and pumpkin desserts! Jenna and her son Carter were new volunteers. We already have volunteers Ashley and son Carter. We were all surprised to find out both Carters were turning 14 on October 20! The boys will again be volunteering together next month.

Please join us for our next meal on November 5. We will serve turkey, homemade stuffing, beans, cranberries, bread, and pie for dessert. We need donations of pies and turkeys (15 pounds or under). We also need canned goods to give away during the meal. We serve from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and we always need volunteers to prepare and serve. Please contact Lynn Klumpp at 610-761-2606 if you can help.







OPEN MIC NIGHT



We were thrilled with the turnout for Open Mic on Monday, October 19! Even though five of our regulars couldn't make it, sixteen people showed up to join the fun. We enjoyed performances from nine talented individuals, including two newcomers and three pianists. Dave Kurtz even brought one of his current students, and was surprised by a visit from a former student, too! It was a fantastic night, and we would love to have you join us for the next one!

Join us for a fun night of entertainment at our next Open Mic on November 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.







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 September, we have received $828 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: Sep 1st 2026 - Sep 30th 2026

Accounts	Actual Sep 01, 2026 - Sep 30, 2026	Budget Sep 01, 2026 - Sep 30, 2026	Budget Over/Under Sep 01, 2026 - Sep 30, 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	6,355.18	9,166.67	(2,811.49)	95,056.80	82,500.03	12,556.77	110,000.00
Designated Funds	25.00	225.00	(200.00)	1,495.60	2,025.00	(529.40)	2,700.00
Donor Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	860.00	0.00	860.00	1,600.00
Pass Thru	118.00	26,083.33	(25,965.33)	38,067.73	26,749.97	11,317.76	27,000.00
Interest, Dividend, Cap Gains,	4,580.34	0.83	4,579.51	18,831.51	18,674.97	156.54	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	13,260.00	8,000.00	5,260.00	14,000.00
Miscellaneous	50.00	216.67	(166.67)	1,650.00	1,950.03	(300.03)	2,600.00
Total Revenues	**$ 13,128.52**	**$ 37,692.50**	**($ 24,563.98)**	**$ 169,221.64**	**$ 139,900.00**	**$ 29,321.64**	**$ 199,400.00**
Expenses							
Senior Pastor	4,574.84	7,916.67	3,341.83	41,710.11	71,250.03	29,539.92	95,000.00
Staff Salaries	1,769.99	1,895.99	126.00	15,895.91	17,063.91	1,168.00	22,752.00
Employer Expenses	135.41	132.67	(2.74)	1,216.08	1,194.03	(22.05)	1,592.00
Administrative Expense	914.46	750.00	(164.46)	7,011.03	6,750.00	(261.03)	9,000.00
Designated Funds	330.61	125.00	(205.61)	790.10	1,125.00	334.90	1,500.00
Worship	250.00	791.67	541.67	5,134.38	7,125.03	1,990.65	9,500.00
Christian Education	79.95	62.50	(17.45)	79.95	562.50	482.55	750.00
Church & Community	70.26	75.00	4.74	606.61	675.00	68.39	900.00
Building & Grounds	2,972.56	4,333.33	1,360.77	29,096.94	38,999.97	9,903.03	52,000.00
Pastor Search (PNC)	0.00	416.67	416.67	887.68	3,750.03	2,862.35	5,000.00
Pass Thru	0.00	66.67	66.67	11,115.00	600.03	(10,514.97)	800.00
Reserve	0.00	50.50	50.50	0.00	454.50	454.50	606.00
Total Expenses	**$ 11,098.08**	**$ 16,616.67**	**$ 5,518.59**	**$ 113,543.79**	**$ 149,550.03**	**$ 36,006.24**	**$ 199,400.00**
Net Total	**$ 2,030.44**	**$ 21,075.83**	**($ 19,045.39)**	**$ 55,677.85**	**($ 9,650.03)**	**$ 65,327.88**	**$ 0.00**

FINANCIAL REPORT EXPLANATIONS

- YTD Income remains above the budgeted amount.
- YTD expense is still well under the budget.





Thank you so much for your generosity! Our church raised $530 for the World Communion Offering. These funds will support vital ministries focused on racial justice, global witness, gender justice, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement. Your love for God is beautifully expressed by helping His children live the full life He intended for them. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

November Birthdays:

November 11	Marie Sole
November 13	Flynn Newlin
November 13	Meredith Sweatlock
November 13	Ruth Snader
November 21	Ed Baugh
November 23	John McDonald
November 26	Sue Welsh
November 26	David Gerhart
November 27	Anna Newlin
November 30	Lauren Cleaver



November Anniversaries:

November 1 Chuck and Deb Bachman (2003)

November 13 Bob and Ruth Snader (1976)

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

Please send to Peg Dombach (pdombach72@gmail.com) any joys, achievements, milestones, etc. for anyone in your family, and we will include them in the monthly newsletters.

Joyous Occasions



Paisley Lynn Claire Kistler, daughter of Mason and Madalyn Kistler, received a children's Bible on October 18. We are excited to support Paisley as she reads and learns about Jesus and his love for her. Paisley has been part of our children's Sunday School class since September and has been attending worship with her family.
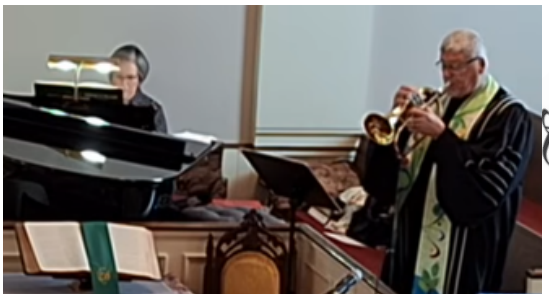


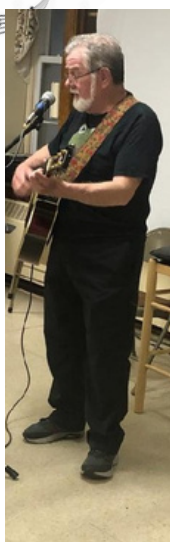




Our church family has two nonagenarians who just celebrated their birthdays. **Naomi Miller** celebrated her 91st on October 19 and **Marilyn Vertigan** celebrated her 96th on October 20. These two ladies are a joy to be around. May God bless both of you with many more years with us.

Kathy Bolton and Pastor Bruce shared their musical talents with us on October 18 by playing "People Need the Lord" on piano, trumpet, and fluglehorn. This beautiful duet brought praise and glory to God and filled us with joy. Thank you both!





A special thank you to **Marty Ruser**, who faithfully shares his musical talents with us during worship. In the absence of a formal choir, we deeply appreciate those who step up to share their gifts to enrich our worship experience. Marty is also a regular contributor at Open Mic. We truly appreciate your music ministry, Marty!

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 Tuesday	Bell Choir Practice — Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.
Every Wednesday	AA Meeting — Old Fellowship Hall	6:00-9:00 p.m.
November 1	All Saints Day	
November 5	Shepherd's Kitchen — Epp. Fell. Hall	4:30-6:30 p.m.
November 8	Communion during the Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
November 8	Session Meeting — Epp. Fell. Hall (tentative date)	12 noon
November 11	Honey Brook Women's Club — Epp. Fell. Hall	6:30-8:00 p.m.
November 12	Special Session Meeting w/ CGPC — Epp. Fell. Hall	6:00 p.m.
November 16	Open Mic Night — Old Fellowship Hall	6:30-9:30 p.m.
November 26	**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** 	
November 29	**Advent Begins** 	

THANK YOU

Thank you to Keith Dombach for cleaning up the wood chips and moving them to the cemetery. The chips were placed around one of the largest monument areas. Also, a huge thank you to Chris Masterson for removing the artificial grass, weeds, and overgrowth from the lawn behind the Christian Education Building. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

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)