

Clock Tower Tidings

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

April 2024



PASTOR'S CORNER

Giving to God What Is God's

April has the distinct honor of hosting everyone's favorite day of the year: Tax Day. If you're like me, tax season is probably not something you look forward to. Tax returns are a hassle, and I think everyone can think of a few ways the government will waste their hard-earned money. I'm sure all of us have asked a simple question this time of year. Why should I even bother paying these taxes?

It shouldn't really surprise us to learn that ancient people didn't like paying their taxes either. In those days, taxation had the potential to be very oppressive. Private organizations were hired by governments to collect the taxes, and the way they made their profit was by charging people much more than the required tax. In other words, tax collectors could basically steal money from people.

For the people of Jerusalem in Jesus' day, paying taxes to Caesar was even worse. The money they were forced to give the Romans was going to help support the foreigners who were occupying their land. Some people even attached a religious significance to the tax. For those people, paying the tax meant acknowledging the Roman Emperor as divine.

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Changes Made to Print Version of Newsletter

Changes are being made to the print version of the *Clock Tower Tidings* monthly newsletter.

If you read the newsletter online – either the version emailed by the church office or on the church website – there should be no impact.

However, if you read the paper version of the newsletter, you will see several differences:

- The newsletter no longer appears in booklet form, but as stapled pages
- The newsletter is now sent by first-class mail, rather than by bulk-rate mail

The content and presentation are unchanged.

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Facebook Image

New Church Musician

Doctoral candidate Ivan Yumagulov is the new church musician. Page 2.

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Sunday Schedule

Worship is at 10:30 a.m. The service is streamed live on Facebook and is archived for viewing on demand. Adult Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. in the Memorial Family Room and is available via Zoom.

April 2 – Deacons – 7 p.m.

April 3 – PW Book Club – 10 a.m.

April 4 – Mission & Outreach – 9:30 a.m.

April 14 – After-service Deacons' social

April 14 – Session – 6:30 p.m.

April 15 – Newsletter deadline

April 20 – Earth Day celebration at Blair Park

April 27 – Mayfest in downtown Huntingdon

Food Pantry Donations

The Huntingdon Food Pantry is requesting **tomato soup** for April. Donations can be dropped off at the office or in the basket in the hallway near the lift.

Worship Attendance

The average in-person worship attendance for four Sundays in February and March was 44. Online services had an average of 135 live and archived Facebook views.

Weekly Giving

Tithes and offerings through February totaled \$28,986.52, or an average of \$3,623 a week. Primary fund giving for 2024 is budgeted at \$195,000, or an average of \$3,750 a week.

Per Capita Contributions

The per capita for 2024 is \$39.24 per member, for a total assessment of \$5,572. As of mid-March, contributions totaled \$1,304.04. If able, please pay your per capita.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for May is Monday, **April 15**.

Care & Visitation List

Jeanne Speck

If you know anyone who would like to be put on this list, please call the church office at 814-643-1302.



Photo by Bill Caufield

Pianist Ivan Yumagulov

Ivan Yumagulov Named New Church Musician

Ivan Yumagulov, a doctoral student at Penn State University, has been named Huntingdon Presbyterian Church's new church musician.

A pianist, he is pursuing a doctor of musical arts degree in a program that runs until April 2026 at Penn State in State College, where he also is a teaching assistant. His hiring was approved by the session at its March meeting.

Ivan received his bachelor of music degree from Bowling Green (Ohio) State University and his master of music degree from the University of Cincinnati. He graduated from high school in Baldwinsville, New York, near Syracuse.

Although he is primarily a pianist, he looks forward to learning to play HPC's pipe organ. In addition, guest organists are also expected to play at some Sunday worship services.

Ivan replaces Bryan Jones as church musician. Bryan completed his doctoral program in music at Penn State last year and has since moved with his wife to Europe.

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Scheduling Pastoral Visits

If you would like a pastoral visit, please let the office know, and a visit with Pastor Brett will be scheduled. The office phone is 814-643-1302.

Renovation Work Wins Award from Chamber

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church has received one of five Chamber of Commerce Community Improvement Awards for last year's sanctuary renovation project.

HPC was one of two recipients of the Preservation Award, which recognizes restorations, preservation or rehabilitation projects that preserve the historic character of buildings. The chamber noted that Amish craftsmanship created matching pieces to the existing woodwork in constructing two new rooms in the sanctuary.



Chamber award

The 19th annual Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce Community Improvement Awards were presented during the annual dinner meeting of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission on March 8 at Greenland's Lodge banquet facility near Alexandria.

Pastor Brett Hoover accepted the award on behalf of HPC.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The session approved the following during its monthly meeting on March 10 held in person and via Zoom:

- The baptism of Brooke Hoover on March 17
- Use of parking lot by the Rotary Interact Club on April 27 for Mayfest activities
- The annual church picnic at Portstown Park on June 16 preceded by the Sunday worship service in park
- Employment of Ivan Yumagulov as church musician
- Use of facilities in the Blair Park Chapel by the Huntingdon Park and Road Association for Earth Day activities on Saturday, April 20



Photos by Bill Caufield

Borough workers cut boards for clock tower.

Borough Prepares Space For Clock Work's Return

Huntingdon Borough employees were at HPC in early March to prepare the bell tower for the return of the town clock mechanical works, which is expected to occur by the end of April.

New wooden flooring was placed in the tower, along with new stairs and ladders.

The refurbished mechanical works will be placed at ground level in the vestibule at Fifth and Mifflin streets, and will be connected to the clock in the tower by lines running through the vestibule's ceiling. Previously, the mechanical works were located high in the tower, making accessibility difficult.

New clock faces were installed in October by Balzer Family Clock Works of Maine, which is also handling the restoration of the mechanical works. The reinstallation of the works will complete a restoration project aimed at getting the historic four-faced town clock operating for the first time in nearly eight years.

Although it has been housed in the HPC steeple for more than 150 years, the town clock belongs to the borough, which is responsible for its upkeep. Much of the restoration work is being paid for with the borough's federal community block grant funds.

Newsletter Changes

(Continued from First Page)

Although most church newsletters have fully migrated to the internet, we are happy to send you a paper version via first-class mail if you let us know that you want one.

The decision to pay first-class postage rather than use lower-cost bulk-rate mailing comes down to numbers. The post office requires the mailing of at least 200 newsletters to be eligible for the bulk rate. Since the number of HPC households is now less than 100, that meant that to retain eligibility many of the newsletters were addressed to the church office each month. Most of the extras ended up in the recycling bin.

For the March issue, there was no bulk-rate mailing. About 60 newsletters were mailed first-class, with another 30 placed in the sanctuary. While the postage was more than for bulk-rate mailing, some of that increase was offset by the use of less 11-by-17-inch paper and less ink. With the elimination of the large-paper booklet version, the cost savings will increase.

The decision to do away with a booklet

newsletter reflects the changing times. When the newsletter shifted to its current format eight years ago, it had no internet presence. Editor Bill Caufield compiled the newsletter using a booklet template and sent it electronically to the church secretary. The newsletter was printed and then went to the mailing team for folding, labeling and submitting to the post office as bulk mail. For many years the team included Pearl Jackson and Jim and Ruth Jackson. Those mailing duties have been taken over in recent months by the church secretary.

Eventually, the booklet template was posted on the church webpage, but it was in a format that was difficult to read online. About five years ago, Bill added an internet-friendly version so that the pages appeared consecutively, rather than in the seemingly random side-by-side page display of the booklet template.

In effect, we were producing two newsletters each month, one for print and one for online.

Beginning with this issue, we are discontinuing the booklet format and producing only one newsletter – the internet-friendly version – for both print and online.

We have tried to identify who would like a paper version, but if you want to be sure you're not overlooked, please call or email the church or fill out the form at left and drop it in the offering plate or otherwise get it to the office.

By the way, if you aren't currently getting the monthly newsletter via email and want to receive it electronically, please email the office with where you want the email newsletter sent.

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Consider a QCD for 2024

Members and friends who must take required minimum distributions from an Individual Retirement Account in 2024 are reminded that they can avoid paying federal income taxes on proceeds donated directly to the church by the custodian of their account. If you are interested in this option, known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), it is suggested that you consult with your tax advisor before taking your next required minimum IRA distributions.

Yes, Send Me the Paper Version

If you want to continue to receive a printed copy of the *Clock Tower Tidings* newsletter in the mail, please let the office know.

You can phone (814-643-1302) or email (huntpc1789@gmail.com) or fill out this form and either send it to the office at 508 Mifflin St. or drop it in an offering plate.

Name

Address



Book Club Resumes With Judy Leigh Novel

Presbyterian Women's Book Club returns from Lenten hiatus at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, **April 3**, with a discussion of *The Silver Ladies Do Lunch* by Judy Leigh.

We meet Lin, Josie, and Minnie – friends who left Miss Hamilton's class at Middleton Ferris County Primary School dreaming of what the future held for them. One thing for sure, they would always be friends.

Sixty years later, life hasn't always been kind; it ebbs and flows; there are good times mixed with rough patches. Then, one day someone "...glides gracefully back into their lives on her glamorous purple mobility scooter..." – 90-year-old Miss Hamilton brings inspiration and fun back into their lives!

"Over their regular lunches, the friends start to dream of leaving the past in the past and embracing the future, because there's nothing you can't achieve with good friends at your side." Judy Leigh writes fun, feel-good, uplifting, heart-warming stories.

PW invites all readers to join the discussion in the Memorial Family Room. Happy Reading!

Pipe Dream Extended

The first-quarter Pipe Dream fundraising project benefitting the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity has been extended one more month to include April.

The extension will allow more time for donations, which at mid-March totaled less than \$100. Habitat remodels homes for area families. With this Pipe Dream, Presbyterian Women remembers a tireless supporter of Habitat for Humanity worldwide for over 40 years – former first lady Rosalynn Carter.



OGHS Auction Set for May

The annual HPC auction benefitting the One Great Hour of Sharing has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, **May 18**. The Mission and Outreach Committee is coordinating the event and will provide cold drinks and cookies in the back of the sanctuary.

In addition to the auction, monetary donations to OGHS will be accepted through May 18. Items to be donated for the auction may be brought to the church office beginning Monday, **April 1**.

OGHS is one of four current denomination-wide special offerings. OGHS donations are split among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



Photo by Bill Caufield

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to donate flower arrangements – either fresh or artificial – for the Sunday worship service, please contact the office.

Co-Moderator to Attend Meeting of Presbytery

For the first time in at least 20 years, a moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will attend a stated meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery.

The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace will be a special guest at the meeting on Tuesday, **April 9**, at the Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Church. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Time will be set aside for Rev. Santana-Grace to discuss topics of interest. She is expected to hear from and learn about the presbytery's small rural churches and ministries. All are invited to attend the meeting.



Pastor's Corner

(Continued from First Page)

With all of this negative stuff attached to it, why should anyone pay their taxes?

Matthew, Mark and Luke have accounts of Jesus answering this question about taxes. It is a very dangerous subject for Jesus to talk about. If he says the people should pay their taxes, then he opens himself up to public anger for supporting the oppressive and idolatrous Roman taxation. If he says the people should not pay their taxes, then government officials could arrest him for promoting rebellion. Jesus' answer has become one of the most famous and talked about passages of Scripture: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Nowadays our conversations are full of questions about what we should give to Caesar. How much taxation is too much? What should be the size and scope of government? What role does government have in solving society's problems? These are really good political questions that will be debated for generations.

But how often do we consider the other side of

the equation? How often do we ask ourselves what should we give to God? Unlike the tax issue, this question is about more than money. It is about how we understand God's role in our daily lives. God is the source of all things. Everything we are and everything we have comes from the blessings of His grace. In light of this, an easy answer to this question would be that we should give God everything; not everything in a materialistic sense but everything in a sense of dedication.

Everything we do on a day-to-day basis has the potential to glorify the God who created us and redeemed us in Jesus Christ. Every hour at work, every trip to the store, every conversation becomes for us a chance to show who we are as God's people. Giving God what belongs to Him means we give Him our whole selves in every aspect of our lives.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Brett D. Hoover

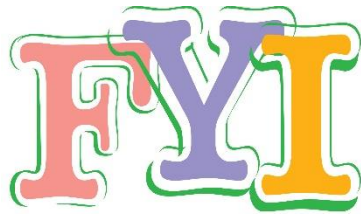
"Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." – Matthew 22:19-21



Facebook Image

Brooke's Baptism

Pastor Brett baptized his daughter Brooke Kylah Hoover, held by her mother Melissa, at the Sunday worship service of March 17.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Pastoral Care Available

Pastor Brett Hoover is available in the church office Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for pastoral care and calls. If you need pastoral care, please call the office at 814-643-1302 or you may email the church office at huntpc1789@gmail.com. In case of emergency, please call Pastor Brett at 724-331-5798. Please note: Pastor Brett will be on vacation from April 2 to April 9.

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Prayer Chain Requests

Prayer chain requests may be made by contacting Deb Hetrick at 814-643-5424 (home) or 814-644-1653 (cell). All prayer chain requests will be kept confidential.

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‘Tea Time’ Program on Facebook

Pastor Brett has resumed his weekly chats on the HPC Facebook page. *Tea Time with Pastor Brett* airs live most Thursdays at 1 p.m. and is archived on Facebook for later viewing. Join Pastor Brett for the latest HPC announcements and then stay for the discussion.

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Thanks for Helping at Services

Thanks to Dr. Keith Sutton, Ivan Yumagulov and Joann Weber for sharing their musical talents during worship services on recent Sunday mornings. Thanks to Amanda Hetrick, Sue Lang and Sylvia Byers for being liturgists. Anyone interested in being a liturgist should contact Amanda or the office.

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Deacons Plan Social for April 14

The deacons will hold a spring-themed time of fellowship and refreshments after the worship service on Sunday, **April 14**. All are invited to attend in the Memorial Family Room.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Potluck of the Irish



Fellowship Hall was awash in green and orange for the Pot O’ Gold potluck on St. Patrick’s Day. Pastor Brett posed Irish trivia questions and tossed chocolate coins covered in gold-colored foil to the winners.

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Adult Study Focuses on Exodus

The adult study group is currently discussing the Book of Exodus. Feel free to join the study at any time. Adult Sunday school meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Memorial Family Room in-person and by Zoom.

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Funeral Policy Available

Copies of HPC’s policy for conducting Christian Services in Witness to the Resurrection (funerals) are available in the office.

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Signs of Spring

Crocuses in a planter adjoining the parking lot bloom during a warm spell in early March.



Huntingdon Presbyterian Church

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Address Service Requested



**April
2024**



Clock Tower Tidings

**Huntingdon Presbyterian Church
Serving God and Community Since 1789**

*"Our mission is to share God's word
and the Good News that Jesus loves us."*



Sanctuary Renovation Wins Award
Details Inside

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