



Clock Tower Tidings

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

May 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

Avoid Getting Stuck In the 'Worry Trap'

Every once in a while, I have caught myself falling into the “worry trap,” a kind of reflexive imagining of worse-case scenarios that can generate an overwhelming sense of fear. Some of that has been of the immediate, personal kind of worry you might expect from a parent. I’m not lying awake at night worrying about all the things that might or could happen to our kids. I only tend to get worried when they start climbing high enough to turn any potential fall from an “ouch” into a trip to the hospital. In those situations, the worst-case scenario isn’t hard to imagine.

But sometimes the worries are about larger things. Everything from pandemics to supply chain disruptions, to rising global conflicts, to increasing national tensions that point to a very troubling conclusion that things are not as stable as they once seemed. As we’ve seen over the past few years, life can become drastically altered by any one of those dimensions boiling over. How should we respond? How do we avoid getting stuck in the “worry trap?”

We can start off by taking the rational approach. First, we should keep in mind that there are incentives for stoking fear. Alarmism and fear sell papers and generate clicks. Media

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Photo by Bill Caufield

Easter Tradition

Tyler Johnston watches sexton Max Byers affix butterfly decorations in the sanctuary in preparation for Easter. Details, Page 3.



OGHS Auction Action Returns on May 18

Get ready to wield your bidding paddles. The One Great Hour of Sharing auction is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, **May 18**, in the HPC sanctuary

All the money raised at the auction goes to the OGHS campaign conducted annually by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If you have an item you wish to donate for the auction, please drop it off with a description at the church office – or drop off a description of the item you are donating, such as food, that can’t be brought in beforehand. The deadline for donating an item is Friday, **May 10**.

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Sunday Schedule

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

Dates to Remember

May 1 – PW Book Club – 10 a.m.
May 7 – Deacons – 7 p.m.
May 9 – Hometown Hearts community meal
May 12 – Mother's Day
May 18 – OGHS Auction – 2 p.m.
May 19 – Pentecost; communion; session – 6:30
May 26 – Glory Way concert – 6 p.m.
May 27 – Memorial Day; office closed

Food Pantry Donations

The Huntingdon Food Pantry is requesting **spaghetti sauce** for May. 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 March and April was 52. Online services averaged of 130 live and archived Facebook views.

Weekly Giving

Tithes and offerings through March totaled \$49,191.52, or an average of \$3,784 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 April 1, contributions totaled \$1,464.04. If able, please pay your per capita.

Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline is Wednesday, **May 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.

OGHS Auction

(Continued from First Page)

Last year, the auction and monetary contributions to OGHS totaled more than \$6,600, ranking HPC as one of the denomination's top OGHS supporters in terms of per-member giving.

OGHS envelopes are available in the back of the sanctuary for those wishing to make monetary contributions. The deadline for donating money to OGHS is Sunday, **May 19**.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is organizing the auction and will provide light refreshments at the event. To succeed, the auction requires both generous donors and willing buyers, so plan on participating however you can. If you are able, come to the auction, and bring a friend, for an afternoon of fun and fellowship for a good cause.

OGHS donations are split among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



2023 File Photo

Pastor Brett, left, was one of the auctioneers at last year's OGHS auction.

IN MEMORIAM

The following member died recently:

Marian Sue McElwee, March 23, 2024

She will be greatly missed.

Please remember her family in your prayers.

Gospel Music Group To Perform on May 26

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church will host a special gospel music concert Sunday evening during the Memorial Day weekend. The group Glory Way will perform at 6 p.m. on Sunday, **May 26**, in the HPC sanctuary.

There is no cost for the concert, but a free-will offering will be received.



Glory Way singers

Glory Way was founded in Mansfield, Ohio, by lead singer Justin Crank, who with Bryan Langley and Philip Kolb comprise the current edition of the group.

Glory Way performs an average of 15 concerts a month, mostly at churches and campgrounds. The group travels 65,000 miles annually throughout the United States.

Concert dates this year range from New Jersey to Iowa. The group will be at Dollywood in Tennessee in September.

All fans of old-fashioned gospel music in the Huntingdon area are invited to attend this special fellowship event.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The session approved the following during its monthly meeting on April 14 held in person and via Zoom:

- Use of the HPC sanctuary for a public performance by the gospel group Glory Way at 6 p.m. on May 26 with a free-will offering
- Moving the May session meeting from May 12 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19
- In addition, the session was informed by Pastor Brett that there are no plans at this time to replace the current hymnals.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Jenny Brockett places butterfly decorations in the front of the sanctuary.

Butterflies Are Back

The sanctuary was teeming on Easter with hundreds of paper, cloth, wood, metal and plastic butterfly decorations of all sizes, a tradition at HPC to mark the resurrection of Christ. The day before Easter, about a dozen volunteers turned out to place the decorations around the sanctuary, including new rooms constructed for the recent renovation. About 15 new butterflies made their debut, replacing worn decorations.



Max Byers positions butterflies on cross.

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Ruth and Jim Jackson sort paper butterflies.



Presbytery Connections Photo

General Assembly Commissioners Janet Kephart and Pastor Brett Hoover with the Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, right.

Pastor to Represent Presbytery at GA226

Pastor Brett Hoover has been elected to be one of two commissioners representing Huntingdon Presbytery this summer in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the 226th General Assembly – GA226 – of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Pastor Brett was commissioned at the April presbytery meeting in Hollidaysburg, along with Elder Janet Kephart of Centre County, the presbytery's moderator. Two alternate commissioners were also chosen.

The General Assembly will meet from **June 25** to **July 4** using a new format that will include online committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions. Pastor Brett will be serving on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue Committee. The theme of GA226 is "Living into Hope."

In addition to its usual business, the presbytery meeting featured a special guest, the Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, co-moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who discussed questions raised by representatives of the presbytery's congregations. Her two-year term ends with GA226.

Camp Ends Cap Program, Readies for Summer Push

Krislund Camp and Retreat Center ended its bottle cap collection program as of March 31. HPC was one of the churches in Huntingdon Presbytery that participated in the yearlong program, which collected bottle caps and other plastic containers that were then recycled into picnic tables for the camp.

The HPC collection bin has been removed from the hall near the parking lot door and the last load of caps was sent to Krislund to be sorted on April 6. More than 1,200 pounds of caps were cleaned for shipment to the recycler at a sorting party in March.

In other Krislund news, Phil Gardner has been named interim director while a search is conducted for a permanent camp director. He was introduced at the April Huntingdon Presbytery meeting.

Krislund is gearing up for another summer of overnight, day and specialty camps. In preparation, Krislund alumni, both staff and campers, will gather May 22-26 for a work week. Camper registration and alumni information can be found at krislund.org.

Krislund Camp and Retreat Center in rural eastern Centre County is a ministry of Huntingdon and two adjoining presbyteries.



Photo by Bill Caufield

The HPC collection box brims with the final load of plastic bottle caps for Krislund.



Remembering PW's 'Fearless Leader'

Four Months of Summer Reading for Book Club

Please plan to join Presbyterian Women the first Wednesday of the month this summer at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Family Room to talk about books – yes, books!

May 1: The 2024 Summer Olympics are in Paris, France; in 1936 the summer games were in Berlin, Germany. Daniel James Brown's *The Boys in the Boat* tells the improbable yet true story of nine working-class boys from the University of Washington defeating the top rowing teams of the East Coast and Great Britain to take on the rowing team of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany for the gold medal. What a great kickoff to summer reading and to the 2024 Paris Olympics!

June 5: Jillian and Lesley – two girls, two different backgrounds, best friends in the turbulent 1960s. Debbie Macomber's *Between Friends* follows their friendship through the years and across the miles and is the book club's choice for June. Join us as we delve into this work of fiction.

July 3: *Walking Shoes* by Lynne Gentry is the novel slated for discussion for July. Reinventing yourself is a big step in a small town. "Leona Harper loves two things: her family and the small-town church her husband has pastored for the last 18 years. Now that they're both gone, can she learn to love herself?" (Amazon)

August 7: A short novel is perfect for the soon-to-get-busy, back-to-school month of August. *For the Love of Quilts* by Gini Athey fits the bill! Upon the death of her Aunt Sara, Emily Crawford returns to her small Wisconsin hometown and learns she has a chance to inherit Sara's estate. But (there's always a but!) there's a stipulation. We'll discuss the challenge Emily grudgingly accepts and how it changes her life.

Presbyterian Women grieve the passing on Saturday, March 23, of our sister in Christ and our moderator, Marian Sue McElwee. The last year was a difficult one for Marian Sue – doctors, hospitals, stays at the Oaks, a move to the Homestead and finally hospice care and a move to the Oaks for round-the-clock care.



Marian Sue McElwee

Always a bright spot in her day was anything and everything Presbyterian Women. She was very proud of the Pipe Dream projects and believed in the power of a quarter. Who will ever forget her admonition to remember that "God loves a cheerful giver"?

However, she had many interests and enjoyed talking about books, sports, movies, music, the HPC organ, the sanctuary renovations, Lenten Bible Study, travel, the news. She was so honored to be HPC's organist emerita. Many remember her playing *The Storm* on Maundy Thursdays; the years we enjoyed *The Messiah*; all of the anthems and the choir's voices moving our hearts; her joyfully sharing the wonders of the organ with children; the way she could make the organ sound like a gently babbling brook. She passionately believed in the importance of integrating music into our Sunday services.

We will miss our funny, motivated, energetic, loving, kind, fearless leader. Hopefully, we will carry Presbyterian Women forward over the next months and years in a manner of which she would be proud.

We will miss you, Marian Sue, but know that you are happy and healthy in heaven and making music! Our faith comforts us and reassures us that we will see our dearly loved sister in Christ when the Lord calls each of us home. Bless you, Marian Sue, our dear, dear friend.
– Sue Lang

Birthday Offering Aids PW Mission Projects

Ah, it's spring, wonderful spring! Presbyterian Women around the world know that this is the time of the year for the Birthday Offering, one of PW's oldest mission programs, when each of us celebrates the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women.

The pandemic played havoc with many of our local PW traditional activities and projects, but we revived the Birthday Offering in 2023 – and we are ready to go again this year. With the money raised, the national PW funds five projects each year. Grant requests come from a variety of national and international groups and organizations.



While the original challenge was to give one penny for each year of your life (or \$1 if you don't want to reveal your age), there are now no giving guidelines other than "give as you are blessed."

And this is the fun of the Birthday Offering. If your age is 10, put 10 pennies or a dime or two nickels in the offering plate. If you are 33 years old, you could give 33 cents or \$1.33 or maybe \$33! And anyone can give – young or old, women or men.

You can put your gift in the offering plate Sunday mornings from May 5 to May 26; all loose coins will be gathered up by Sharon Caufield and given to PW.

If you wish to give with cash or a check, please put it in an envelope marked Birthday Offering and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office or give it to Susan Lang, PW secretary/treasurer.

Please make your check out to Presbyterian Women; you can put Birthday Offering in the memo line if you so choose.

PW PIPE DREAM

Quarters for Hometown Hearts

Presbyterian Women's Pipe Dream for May, June and July will benefit Hometown Hearts. While HPC rotates with other churches and organizations on Thursday evenings, there are many expenses to running a large, local endeavor. Dropping quarters in the pipes in the sanctuary and the Memorial Family Room hallway really can make a difference for a local mission that has its roots in the former Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen. As Marian Sue McElwee loved to remind us, "God loves a cheerful giver!"

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Update on Habitat for Humanity

An article in *The Daily News* announced the completion of the Habitat for Humanity house on Moore Street in Huntingdon. It was turned over to the new owner, Billie Jo Price and family, on March 10. Many of the HPC family have donated to the recent Pipe Dream project that benefitted our local Habitat for Humanity organization. How proud PW was to learn that our very own Anita Nwaobilo gave Billie Jo a handmade quilt. What a wonderful way to be welcomed to a new home!



May 9 Meal Help Needed

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church's next scheduled shift preparing a Hometown Hearts meal is Thursday, **May 9**. Please consider volunteering to help.

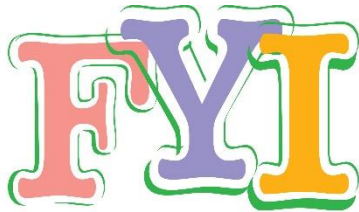
The prep group meets at 3 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church and leaves around 5 p.m. The servers/cleanup group works from about 4:50 p.m. until everything is cleaned up.

Please tell Deacon Jane Brown if you are donating desserts. See Artamarie Barclay if you have questions.

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Contributing Flowers for Worship

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



• 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.

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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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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.

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VBS Planned with Abbey Church

HPC and the Abbey Reformed Church are planning to hold a joint Vacation Bible School this summer. Details of the VBS were being worked out in April and will be shared when available.

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How to Get a Paper Newsletter

Clock Tower Tidings is being sent by email to members and friends and is posted on the church website. If you would like to receive a paper copy by first-class mail and are not now receiving one, please inform the office. You may also pick up a paper copy of the newsletter in the rear of the sanctuary.

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Become a Sunday Liturgist

If you are interested in sharing your gifts in Sunday worship as a liturgist, please contact Amanda Hetrick or the church office.



Photo by Bill Caufield

Gathered Together

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service was held in Fellowship Hall, preceded by a simple supper of soup, juice and bread.

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Thanks for Helping at Services

Thanks to Ivan Yumagulov, Sarah Peachey, Joann Weber and Anita Nwaobilo for sharing their musical talents during worship services on recent Sunday mornings. Thanks to Sue Lang and Sylvia Byers for being liturgists. A special thanks to Anita Nwaobilo for bringing the message on Sunday, April 7.



Anita Nwaobilo sings at Easter.

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Photo by Bill Caufield

Spring Social

The deacons welcomed spring with a coffee social after worship on Sunday, April 14.

Pastor's Corner

(Continued from First Page)

has, at best, a mixed history of presenting events without sensationalism. Politicians and political movements have also known for a long time that fear is one of the fastest motivators for votes. Don't misunderstand me here. There are some things that should legitimately raise our concern. But we should also be aware of the motivations for sowing fear and worry.

We can also find some comfort in remembering the experience of the past. Human beings have found ways to persevere and even thrive in circumstances far more uncertain and bleak than our own. We don't have to go back far in history to find times when war, plagues and even famine were common place. Yet our ancestors endured through those circumstances with a great deal less to work with. We'll find ways to adapt, too.

But the rational approach to lessening worry has its limitations. As I mentioned before, sometimes our fears are legitimate. And knowing other people had it worse off in the past doesn't necessarily make hardships in the present easier to endure or anticipate. If we want true freedom from the worries of the world, we must look beyond the world to find it.

Jesus directly taught about worry in the Sermon on the Mount. In it, he points to God's provision for all creation and encourages us to trust in that. But his teaching goes deeper than a "let go and let God" approach. Just before he taught about worry, Jesus challenged his listeners to examine where they stored their treasure. Where do we look for ultimate meaning and satisfaction? What do we value and cherish beyond anything else? If our treasure is worldly circumstances, we'll always feel insecure because those circumstances can change in an instant. If we treasure health, it can be stolen by disease. If we treasure peace, it can be stolen by war. If we treasure prosperity, it can be stolen by hardship.

In one of the greatest twists of all, it's only

when we treasure something beyond the world that we can find the hope to endure whatever happens in the world. The God we know in Jesus Christ is our proper treasure. The love and grace He gives us does not change and cannot be stolen. The eternal destiny He promises us cannot be taken away. The more this perception becomes a reality to us, the more resilient we will be to the worries of the world.

How can we build up that perception and gain that resilience? We need to encourage ourselves with clear reminders of God's promises. This is one of the principal benefits of worship. During worship we remember who God is and what He has done for us. Prayer is also essential. Prayer reminds us of our reliance on God. And prayer lays before God's throne all the worries that weigh on our heart.

Christianity does not lead its followers into dispassionate indifference but into expectant hope. Fear and worry are natural human emotions. But if those feelings dominate us, if they keep us from experiencing the hope and joy we have in Christ, then we need to preach God's Word to ourselves. God has secured our eternal destiny, our true good. And nothing can endanger it. As Paul said, "You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption."

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Brett D. Hoover

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." – Matthew 6:34



Annual Church Picnic June 9

The annual church picnic will be held Sunday, **June 9**, at Portstown Park. This year, as we have done in years past, the 10:30 a.m. worship service will be conducted at the park pavilion prior to the potluck meal.

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church

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Address Service Requested



**May
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.”*



OGHS Auction Coming May 18

Stay in Touch with HPC on Our Facebook Page