

CLOCK TOWER TIDINGS



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

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church
Huntingdon, PA 16652
Founded 1789

September 2026

PASTOR'S CORNER

We're Not The Church's Customers

As I'm writing this, it has been two weeks since our family came back from a terrific vacation at Great Wolf Lodge in Perryville, Maryland. The biggest draw for us was the indoor waterpark. Slides, giant buckets of water falling on you, and, of course, the lazy river were some of the highlights.

After we got back home, we received an email survey so we could share feedback about our stay. I was surprised by how frequently the survey asked us about the friendliness of the staff. It was included when we rated every dimension of our experience: front desk, attractions, food service, housekeeping, and even retail. No matter what we did, they were interested in knowing about staff interactions.

The reason for this nearly
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Photo by Bill Caufield

Pastor Brett baptizes MaKayla Lindsey by dunking on August 2.

Baptism by Immersion at HPC



Photo by Bill Caufield

Hole in One: A youngster tries her hand at cornhole in the HPC parking lot during National Night Out. Details, more photos on Page 3.

For the first time in memory – and perhaps in the 237-year history of Huntingdon Presbyterian Church – a member was received through baptism by immersion.

Pastor Brett administered the sacrament of baptism to MaKayla Lindsey by dunking her three times in the pool at the residence of Paul and Judy Post on Sunday, August 2. Since baptisms are usually done during a
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UPDATE

Sunday Schedule

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

Dates to Remember

September 1 – Deacons – 7 p.m.
September 2 – PW Book Club – 10 a.m.
September 6 – Communion
September 7 – Labor Day; office closed
September 20 – Session – 6:30 p.m.
September 22 – Autumn begins
October 4 – World Communion Sunday

Food Pantry Donations

The Huntingdon Food Pantry is requesting **cereal** for September. Donations can be dropped off in baskets near the first-floor lift or in the south vestibule.

Worship Attendance

The average in-person Sunday worship attendance over four Sundays in August and September was 39. Sunday services had an average of 66 live and archived Facebook views.

Weekly Giving

Tithes and offerings through July totaled \$111,715.75, or an average of \$3,724 a week. Primary Fund giving for 2026 is budgeted at \$190,000, or an average of \$3,654 a week.

Per Capita Contributions

The 2026 per capita assessment is \$41 per member, for a total of \$5,289. As of mid-August, per capita contributions totaled \$1,176. If possible, please pay your per capita.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, **September 15.**

Deacons' Care List

If you or someone you know would like to be put on the deacons' Care List, please tell a deacon or call the church office at 814-643-1302.

Auditors Find Records In Good Financial Order

The three elected HPC auditors presented a report at the July session meeting that found the books for 2024 and 2025 to be in excellent order.

Among the auditors' recommendations:

- An explanation of the process of online giving would be helpful to the auditors
- A written policy for use of the HPC debit card is highly recommended
- Session acknowledgment and approval of deposits and withdrawals from investment accounts should be reported by the chairperson of Finance Committee to be noted in the minutes
- Establishing nonprofit status in advance for all accounts when possible

The auditors said the financial records are in good order thanks to the work of Treasurer Heather Beckwith and Financial Secretary Sharon Caufield. The auditors, elected by the congregation, are Jennifer Kann, Pam Kyper and Judy Post. Judy attended the session meeting to present the report and answer questions.

Women's Restroom Closed In Fellowship Hall

The women's restroom in the basement Fellowship Hall has been closed and what had been the men's restroom is now a unisex restroom.

The Property Committee reported to the session in July that a sliding-bolt lock has been installed on the unisex restroom door to provide more privacy for users. The outside door to the former men's restroom has been removed.

Raabe Restoration of Tyrone delayed work on the former women's restroom wall due to demand for their services caused by the recent flooding in the Tyrone area. Work has since resumed. That area of the basement foundation has long been subject to water intrusion.

Making New Friends At National Night Out

The HPC parking lot was abuzz with activity on August 4 as the Mission and Outreach Committee served up free food and games for the crowd attending the borough's annual family-friendly National Night Out block party.

When they weren't munching on popcorn, potato chips and flavored ices, youngsters were invited to try their hand at cornhole, target practice using foam bullets and creating Mario-themed pop-ups.

In the absence of Pastor Brett, who was on vacation, the prayer tent was manned by Chalmers Port and Anita Nwabolio. In addition to HPC booths, the parking lot hosted tents from Huntingdon Dyslexia Center and Scout Troop 25 and Kaleena's food truck.

National Night Out, which this year was paired with the Back to School Bash-tastic, took over Washington Street from Fourth to Eighth Streets with first-responder apparatus, games and booths. A foam pit in front of HPC on Fifth Street was a fun way to cool off on a hot day.



Barb Williams and Steve Miller dish up an ice.



Mickie Byers and her dog BeBe at the dyslexia center's tent.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Zach Byers tells would-be sharpshooters to wait until Karen Fleming clears the area.



Anita Nwobilo, left, and Chalmers Port were available for prayer in the prayer tent.



Youngsters cool off on a sudsy Fifth Street at Mifflin in front of HPC thanks to a foam machine.

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Photos by Bill Caufield

MaKayla Lindsey and Pastor Brett after the baptism in the Posts' pool.

Baptism

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worship service, the baptism of MaKayla just after noon was a continuation of the Sunday worship service held earlier in the sanctuary.

The Posts, who live in Walker Township just off of Route 26, volunteered the use of their pool after MaKayla asked to be baptized by immersion.

The session approved in June the baptism by immersion of both MaKayla and Celes Shontz. Celes is to be baptized at a later date. Although Presbyterians usually baptize by the sprinkling of water at a sanctuary's baptism font, the PC(USA) **Book of Order** does allow for baptism by immersion.

Pastor Brett is no stranger to baptism by immersion – he was baptized by immersion in the Church of the Brethren as a youth. Wearing a white robe he got from the Lutherans, Pastor Brett began with prayer and asked questions of MaKayla and members of the congregation who were present and standing beneath a small tent to keep dry during sporadic rain showers.

Keeping dry was momentarily forgotten as Pastor Brett, MaKayla and onlookers proceeded to the pool, where he dunked MaKayla three times in



In the pool, Pastor Brett explains how he plans to carry out the baptism by immersion.



Pastor Brett anoints MaKayla after the baptism in the pool. Judy Post is holding the service book.

the water. Back under the tent, he anointed her with oil and welcomed her to the congregation.

In response to a question, MaKayla said she hopes to join the Army later this year.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Book Club to Feature Judge Stone, Miss Marple

The Presbyterian Women's Book Club is back! The first Wednesday of September is the 2nd, so please come to the former choir room at 10 a.m. to share thoughts about **Judge Stone**, a novel by Academy Award-winning actress Viola Davis and the world's #1 bestselling author, James Patterson.

"Talk about a power combo! ... With Davis's razor-sharp emotional insight and Patterson's mastery of rocket-fuel pacing, this is the dream team to deliver an up-all-night read that will keep the [book club] chat buzzing." – **Oprah Daily**

Judge Mary Stone has two responsibilities she holds dear: running her family farm and presiding over her courtroom. Mary Stone draws the most controversial case in the history of the South. Criminally, it's open and shut. Ethically, it has no middle ground. Essentially, it's a choice – life or death. No judge can satisfy everyone. Plan on joining Book Club on **September 2**.

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In **October**, Book Club reaches out to all Agatha Christie fans with **Miss Marple: The Complete Short Stories**, one volume that brings together murder, mayhem, mystery, and detection with the beloved investigator Miss Marple, who lives almost her entire life in the sleepy hamlet of St. Mary Mead.

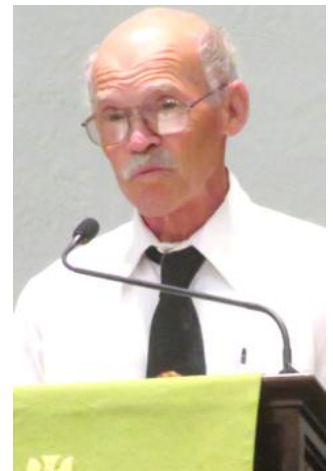
What she observes of village life gives her unparalleled insight into human nature, helping to make her mysteries timeless!

Any time is a good time to become an Agatha Christie fan! Please join PW Book Club, Wednesday, **October 7**.

Reminder: Book Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the former choir room. All readers are welcome. Happy Reading!



Guest Preachers: Filling the pulpit for vacationing Pastor Brett at services in July and August were Chalmers Port, above, Todd Lewis, below left, and John Brockett, below right.



PW NOTES

Pipe Dream Reminder: September is the last month for quarters to support the Standing Stone Elementary School Backpack Program. If you choose to write a check, please make it out to "Presbyterian Women" with Standing Stone in the memo line. PW is truly grateful for the congregation's support of each Pipe Dream project. Thank you.

Welcome, Dr. Sutton: Presbyterian Women sends a warm welcome to Dr. Keith Sutton as HPC's new church musician. It is wonderful to have our spectacular organ being part of worship on many Sunday mornings. We look forward to your smile and your musical talent. Welcome to HPC, Keith!

Pastor's Corner

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obsessive questioning came to me pretty quickly. The focus on friendliness must be part of the company's corporate culture. Some of the most successful and highly functioning companies have clearly articulated values intended to guide the behavior of their employees. Most of the time, these values are not directly related to making a profit. They're usually about ensuring the most positive customer experience possible. For example, Disney prioritizes customer relations, desiring each interaction to be characterized by courtesy and respect. That's why cast members (employees) are not allowed to answer a customer's questions with seemingly dismissive "I don't know."

The key concept here is intentionality. These corporations want their employees to understand who they are and their role or task. This is certainly an idealized understanding, and the values are never lived into perfectly. But values set a baseline expectation or even aspiration, an organizing principle to which one can recommit.

What are our values as a church? How do we understand our role or task? Are we the customers, the ones for whom everything is oriented or catered? Or are we something else?

Paul explores this question deeply with the Christians in Corinth. Corinth was a deeply divided and flawed church. And a primary cause of their problems was that they lost sight of their role in God's great enterprise of redemption. Their faith became primarily about them, their own glory and honor, the meeting of their own needs and the gratification of their own impulses. The result was, predictably, division and chaos.

Read what Paul calls them back to: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." (2 Cor. 5:17-20)

Having received grace from and reconciliation with God, their role changed. They were now new creations, Christ's ambassadors, the ones through whom God would make His appeal of forgiveness and love to others.

What does all this mean? We're not the church's customers. We're Christ's ambassadors! All that we do isn't for us. It's for Christ, and for the people He has called us to reach. Now, there is some overlap. We are constantly in need of hearing about this reconciliation, or remembering who we are and who's we are. That ordinarily happens through worship, prayer, study and service. But it's critical to hold on to the central point here: our faith and life as a community isn't fundamentally about us. It's about proclaiming and sharing Him, Jesus, the one who gives us forgiveness, hope and life!

This understanding changes our orientation. It shifts our thinking away from the self and recenters it where it belongs: on Christ. And it is precisely that rightly ordered selflessness that will speak volumes to a world drowning in self-obsession.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Brett D. Hoover

"As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain."

– 2 Corinthians 6:1

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The session approved the following during its meeting on July 19 held in person and via Zoom:

- Report of internal audit by HPC auditors with gratitude
- Two guest ministers: Todd Lewis (August 9) and John Brockett (August 16)
- The next scheduled session meeting on September 20

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pastoral Care Available: Pastor Brett Hoover is available in the church office Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 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.

Office Hours: The church office will resume regular hours of 9 a.m.-noon effective Tuesday, **September 8**. The office had been on summer hours between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The office is open Monday-Friday.

Lord's Supper: The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at the Sunday worship service on **September 6**. The September date is one of the days for communion that was added to the worship calendar after the session approved monthly communion earlier this year.

Church History Course: Pastor Brett Hoover is scheduled to teach a class Saturday, **September 12**, on church history as part of the Huntingdon Presbytery's ongoing training for certified lay preachers. The class will be presented 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church.

Prayer Chain: Men as well as women can join the Presbyterian Women's Prayer Chain. Just contact Deb Hetrick at 814-643-5424 (home) or 814-644-1653 (cell). If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, Deb's contact info is the same. All prayer chain requests will be kept confidential unless directed otherwise.

Krislund Golf Tournament: The 2026 Chip in for Krislund golf tournament will take place on Friday, **September 11**, at the Nittany Country Club in Mingoville, Centre County. Summer camp at Krislund wrapped up the 2026 season with 217 campers, plus an additional 80 youths attending three traveling day camps. Krislund is a presbytery-related camp and retreat center in eastern Centre County.



Making Music: Thanks to Sarah Peachey, above, Kay Rossman, Kathy Myers and church musician Keith Sutton for sharing their musical talent at recent Sunday services.

Presbyterians in Ghana Presented with Bibles

Members of the Victory Presbyterian Church in Ghana now each have a Bible thanks to the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church.

Jenny Brockett distributed some 150 Bibles this summer as part of a two-week medical mission trip to the west African nation that saw the treatment of some 8,000 patients. Jenny, a registered nurse, saw the need for Bibles during a medical mission trip last year, and shared her concerns with her fellow deacons and HPC's Mission and Outreach Committee.

A fundraising drive was held at HPC earlier this year. As a result, \$2,935 was raised – nearly twice the goal of \$1,500. The money went to buy Bibles for the African church, with the Ghana Bible Society to get the extra funds.

PC(USA) Elects Co-Moderators

Commissioners to the PC(USA)'s 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee elected as co-moderators the Rev. Marta Pumroy Cordero, border ministry coordinator for Tres Rios Presbytery in Texas, and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa.

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Worship with us this Sunday in-person or on our Facebook page. Everyone is welcome!