



Clock Tower Tidings

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

November 2023



Photo by Bill Caufield

Linda Balzer helps hoist a section of the clock face framework into the clock tower.

Target Date Given For Sanctuary Use

If all goes according to plan, the congregation can start using its remodeled sanctuary on Sunday, **November 19**.

An email sent by Paul Post of the Sanctuary Renovation Committee to the various contractors in early October outlined a construction schedule that targets completion of essential work by Friday, **November 17**.

“Please do whatever possible to stick to this timeline,” he wrote. “It will be very tough to try and hold church services in the basement during Thanksgiving and the Christmas season.”

The congregation has been meeting for Sunday services in Fellowship Hall since July.

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Town Clock Returns For Restart in 2024

The four faces of the town clock were reinstalled in the HPC steeple in October, but it will be spring 2024 before the historic timepiece is back into service.

The Balzer Family Clock Works brought back from Maine the refurbished, repainted iron framework for the clock faces, as well as new glass and new lightweight redwood clock hands. The Balzers will return to Huntingdon in the spring to install the clock’s restored mechanical works, which will now be located in a ground-level vestibule instead of high in the steeple.

Before the clock can be restarted, construction
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Photo by Bill Caufield

Paul Post points out repainted areas to HPC members after the October 1 Sunday service .

The Pastor’s Corner column will resume after Pastor Brett returns from paternity leave.

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Sunday Schedule

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

Dates to Remember

November 1 – PW Book Club – 10 a.m.
November 5 – Daylight Saving Time ends
November 6 – Pastor Chuck Montz – 6:30 p.m.
November 7 – Election Day; Deacons – 7 p.m.
November 9 – Preparation of community meal
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 12 – Session – 6:30 p.m.
November 23 – Thanksgiving; office closed 24th
November 26 – Election of HPC officers

Food Pantry Donations

The Huntingdon Food Pantry is requesting **hand soap** for November. Donations can be dropped off at the office or in the basket in the lift hallway.

Worship Attendance

The average in-person worship attendance for four Sundays in September and October was 37. Archived online services had an average of 110 Facebook views.

Weekly Giving

Tithes and offerings through September totaled \$131,283.02, or an average of \$3,362 a week. Primary fund giving for 2023 is budgeted at \$200,000, or an average of \$3,774 a week.

Per Capita Contributions

The per capita for 2023 is \$39.24 per member, or \$5,768. As of mid-October, contributions totaled \$1,537.93. If able, please pay your per capita.

Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline is Wednesday, **November 15**.

Care & Visitation List

Vin Dandrea, Jeanne Speck

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

Angel Tree to Aid Huntingdon House

Donations to the Angel Tree, Presbyterian Women's annual Christmas project, will once again benefit Huntingdon House, the local domestic-abuse shelter. Since the pandemic, our donations have been monetary, which works out really well for Huntingdon House, as the staff can target the funds to meet real-time needs.

The Angel Tree Project will again be co-chaired by Barbara Williams and Heather Beckwith.

As of this writing, Angel Tree donations will be collected over three weeks: Sunday, **November 26**, through Friday, **December 15**. A check is to go to Huntingdon House on Monday, **December 18**. If the dates change, Barb and Heather will get the word to our church family.

Donations can be in cash or by check. If making a donation by check, please write it to Presbyterian Women and put Angel Tree in the memo line. Give your donation to Barb, Heather, or any PW member you see; dropping it off to Sylvia in the church office will also be an option. Every donation is welcome; even if it is late, it will get to Huntingdon House.

The good works done by Huntingdon House happen quietly and privately; we pray for the staff and the clients. One of the board members of Huntingdon House is Artamarie Barclay, HPC's clerk of session.

The generosity of our church family to the Angel Tree Project is an example of heartfelt giving during the Christmas season. Thank-you from Presbyterian Women for every donation. God bless you all. Merry Christmas!

IN MEMORIAM

The following member died recently:

Margy Wilson, September 27, 2023

She will be greatly missed.

Please remember her family in your prayers.



Book Club Focuses On Holiday Stories

The holiday season brings so many wonderful activities, projects and traditions. It also can bring the enjoyment of holiday stories. Presbyterian Women's Book Club will start the season with its November selection, *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, **November 1**, in the Memorial Family Room.

Victoria James' *The Christmas House* is the December novel. "As the spirit of Christmas lights up Silver Springs, three generations of women gather at their dysfunctional family's B&B, hoping to reconcile in time for the holidays." (Amazon) Can the joy of Christmas bring this family closer? We hope to see you Wednesday, **December 6**, at 10 a.m. in the Family Room when we will all know the answer!

Continuing the holiday magic into the new year is always fun, thus one of Fern Michaels' Christmas novels fits the bill perfectly. *And the Angels Sing* has been selected for January. The story centers on the sisterhood, a group of women bound by friendship who like to right wrongs. This Christmas, Maggie Spritzer wants to bring some holiday magic to a beloved teacher from her past. However, that teacher seems to have disappeared.

Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a few cookies as you see how this story is resolved. Join book club **January 3**, at 10 a.m. in the Family Room as we discuss one more mystery. We do seem to like Christmas mysteries!

Although the PW Book Club does not meet during the Lenten Bible Study, which starts Ash Wednesday, **February 14**, it will be back on Wednesday, **April 3**, to discuss *The Silver Ladies Do Lunch* by Judy Leigh. Happy Reading!



Lenten Bible Study Coming

Here's a teaser for an upcoming event: Presbyterian Women's Lenten Bible Study will once again be taught by Anita Nwaobilo; the title is "Sacred Encounters, the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" by the Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir (\$10 per booklet). Ash Wednesday is **February 14**, which will be our first Lenten meeting. Sign-up information and an overview will be in the December newsletter. All are welcome.

PW PIPE DREAM

Providing More Bags of Love

Presbyterian Women's Pipe Dream will wind up 2023 with our most popular local project – Bags of Love! We are counting on the kindness of our church family as we need to boost the funds for Bags of Love.

Going into winter and the holidays, there is always an uptick in colds, flu, ear infections and fevers that bring many children to the Penn Highland's quick care center for treatment. The bags of goodies (always including a stuffed animal) can be a welcome diversion for children, parents and medical staff.

As our intrepid leader, Marian Sue McElwee, says, "The Lord loves a cheerful giver!" Please drop quarters into the pipes; we appreciate any donations you can make. God bless you.

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Backpack Program Raises \$220

Presbyterian Women is happy to share that the Pipe Dream for July, August and September raised \$220 for the Standing Stone Backpack Program. Our church family is very generous; we greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

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Photos by Bill Caufield

The steeple clock faces and hands are back but the town clock doesn't yet tell the time.

Town Clock

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of a cabinet to house the mechanics in the vestibule and work in the clock tower itself must be completed.

The metal framework for the clock faces came in 24 pieces – six for each face – which were



Plywood covering clock-face holes had to be removed.

hoisted into the steeple via rope and winch through a narrow ladderway in the north vestibule. Built into the framework are the clock's Roman numerals. Once the framework was in place, new glass panels and clock hands were added.

Before installing the new faces, the Balzers

had to remove the plywood that had been covering the four holes left when the old faces were taken out.

The Balzers – Rick and Linda Balzer and their son Chris – were on hand to remove the old clock faces and mechanics in June. They returned to reinstall the clock faces October 9-13. The firm is one of the few clock tower

restoration specialists in the U.S. The restoration work was done at the Balzer studio in Freeport, Maine.

The reinstallation of the clock faces went fairly smoothly, although a swarm of what appeared to be wasps in the clock tower resulted in an urgent call for bug spray.

The town clock is owned and maintained by Huntingdon Borough. It has been located in the HPC steeple since 1872. The current clock dates to 1910; it replaced the original clock after a fire. It stopped working in fall 2016, and several years were spent trying to find financing.

Most of the funding to restore the clock is coming from the borough's federal community grant money. The grant is administered by the Huntingdon County Planning Department.



Chris and Rick Balzer install the framework.



The framework awaits glass and clock hands

Sanctuary

(Continued from First Page)

The session approved a budget of \$650,000 for the sanctuary renovation project, but the committee believes the total will be below that figure. HPC's investment adviser set aside \$500,000 in a money-market account, of which \$220,000 has been transferred to the church operating account for project expenses as of mid-October.

In addition to the investment money, \$116,723 has been realized from the sale of property and cash contributions. Most of that money came from the sale earlier this year of a Tiffany "acorn" lamp that hung in the rear of the sanctuary.

According to the email to the contractors, Williams Construction was to begin building a quiet room and an audio-visual/storage room in the rear of the sanctuary around October 16. Installation of new carpet by Fike Bros. is to begin around November 6. Fike will start with hallways and then do the vestibules and sanctuary.



Above, a member of the Waddell painting crew touches up near stained-glass windows. At right, painters work in the south vestibule.



Members of the congregation look at panels to be used in construction of two small rooms.



When Sexton Max Byers peeled away worn green carpeting in the clock tower vestibule, he found terracotta tile flooring that may date to the church's construction in 1872.



Fike Bros. workers remove the carpeting in the hallway outside the church office.

Date Tentatively Set For Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee has tentatively scheduled election of officers after the Sunday service on **November 26**. The session will be asked to approve the date at its November meeting and call the congregational meeting.

The committee held its first meeting in early October and is hard at work on a slate of officers for 2024. Please consider serving or if you know of someone who would make a good candidate, contact Ann Dunlavy, chair of the Nominating Committee, at 814-386-3023 or ann@lincolncaverns.com.

The committee will be asking church members to serve as elders, deacons, Personnel or Nominating Committee members, or church auditor. The committee hopes to present the congregation with a full slate of candidates.



Photo by Bill Caufield

Bringing the Message

The Rev. Doug Friant filled the pulpit for four Sunday services in Fellowship Hall beginning September 24 while Pastor Brett was on paternity leave. Rev. Friant is a former pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, which is Pastor Brett's home church.



Photo by Bill Caufield

Autumn Treats

The deacon's fall coffee after the October 15 service offered seasonal goodies including fresh apple slices.



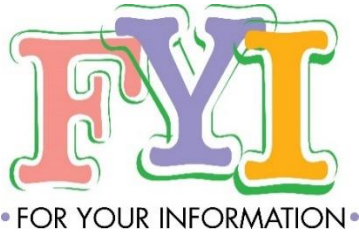
PC(USA) Membership Hovers around 1 Million

The membership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at the end of 2022 was 1,140,665, according to Office of General Assembly's annual statistical report, which is based on session annual statistical reports filed by the denomination's churches.

For 2022, the PC(USA) reports a net loss of 53,105 members, nearly 2,000 more than reported the year before. There was also a loss of 108 churches last year, bringing the total remaining churches to 8,705.

Five years before, in 2017, the PC(USA) had a membership of 1,415,053 in 9,304 churches. In 2000, the denomination had about 2.5 million members. It slipped below the 2-million mark in 2011.

On a brighter note, the number of new worshiping communities is on the increase. The denomination added 20 new worshiping communities in 2022.



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.

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Time to Prepare Community Meal

HPC is scheduled to prepare the weekly Hometown Hearts meal on Thursday, **November 9**. Please consider either volunteering to be part of the kitchen crew or to provide a dessert. Deacon Jane Brown will be checking with the congregation about desserts. HPC's turn to prepare the community meal occurs about every eight weeks. This is the last meal that HPC is scheduled to provide this year. The meals are cooked and distributed at St. James Lutheran Church.

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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). Or you may contact the church office. All requests are kept confidential.

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Election Fills Auditor Vacancy

Upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the congregation has elected Port Williams to fill a vacancy as an auditor. The vote came at a specially called congregational meeting on September 24.

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Thanks for Music at Services

Thanks to Kathy Myers, Henry Kyper, the Wopsonnock Winds, Kay Rossman and Terry Murray for sharing their musical talents during worship services on recent Sunday mornings.



Malawi Mission Talk

*Pastor Chuck Montz and his wife Deb will speak at 6:30 p.m., Monday, **November 6**, in the Memorial Family Room about their mission work in Malawi. Some of you know Chuck from his time as pastor at Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Church. This is sure to be an interesting evening with Chuck and his family, who have been in Malawi since January.*

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Stay in Touch with Facebook

Stay informed about what's happening at HPC by regularly viewing the church's Facebook page. Pastor Brett's "Tea Time" chats on the page take place at 3 p.m. on Thursdays

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Share Your Talents with HPC

If you would like to share your talents, HPC is always looking for ways to include you as a liturgist, musician, acolyte, or even helping with the audio-video system or folding newsletters. Let the church office know how you can help.

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Church Musician Position Open.

The position of church musician is now available at HPC. Contact the Personnel Committee at 508 Mifflin St, Huntingdon PA 16652 or huntpc1789@gmail.com.

Set Clocks Back One Hour Nov. 5

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, **November 5**, the day that Daylight Saving Time ends and Standard Time resumes.

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church

508 Mifflin Street

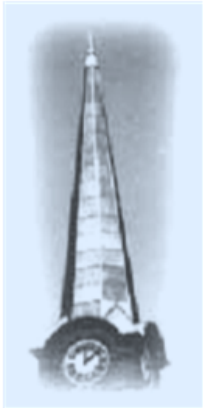
Huntingdon, PA 16652

huntpc1789@gmail.com

www.huntingdonpresbyterianchurch.org

814-643-1302

Address Service Requested



**November
2023**



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.”*



Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 5

Stay in Touch with HPC’s Facebook Page