

Clock Tower Tidings

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

May 2025



PASTOR'S CORNER

Biblical Honesty Applies to Mothers, Too

One of the greatest blessings in my life has been watching Melissa grow into her role as a mother. We met in college, so we've done a lot of growing up together. She is the glue that holds all the necessary parts of the family together. Some of that includes the typical day-to-day efforts required to keep a family going. But it's so much deeper than doing laundry or packing lunches. It's expressed in the patient love, warm kindness and clear direction that help our kids thrive. The love of mothers is so often expressed in consistent, small and vitally important ways.

I'm certain many of you have similar stories of admiration about the mothers in your life. Maybe you have also seen someone grow beautifully into that role. Maybe some cherished memory of your own mother comes immediately to mind. Mother's Day is a great time to intentionally reflect and give thanks for all the things mothers have done.

As I have studied the Bible more and more over the years, I have been more and more amazed by its honesty. It shows real people responding in real ways to the challenges of life and faith. Some people respond better than others.

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Get Ready to Bid at OGHS Auction May 3

The annual auction that over the years has raised tens of thousands of dollars at HPC for One Great Hour of Sharing returns Saturday, **May 3.**

The OGHS Auction is one of the congregation's most loved events. Be sure to attend and invite all your friends. The auction will begin at 2 p.m. in the HPC sanctuary.

In past years, food items were reliable generators of bids. They included maple syrup, blueberries, shortbread, pies, baguettes, brownies and soup. Other items ranged from collectibles and puzzles to books and gift cards. More than 80 donated items were on the

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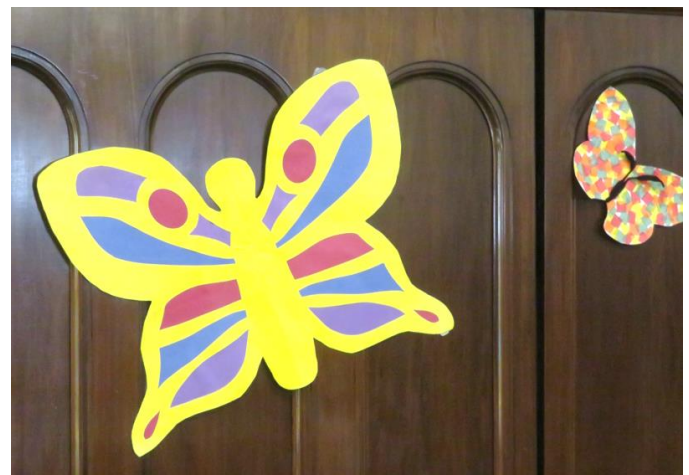


Photo by Bill Caufield

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He Is Risen!

Dozens of butterfly decorations greeted Easter worshippers. More photos, Page 6.

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Sunday Schedule

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

Dates to Remember

May 1 – National Day of Prayer
May 3 – OGHS Auction – 2 p.m.
May 5 – Presbyterian Women – 1 p.m.
May 6 – Deacons – 7 p.m.
May 7 – PW Book Club – 10 a.m.
May 8 – Mission and Outreach – 9:30 a.m.
May 8 – Hometown Hearts meal crew
May 11 – Mother's Day
May 18 – Session – 6:30 p.m.
May 26 – Memorial Day; office closed
June 1 – Church picnic

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 first-floor hallway near the lift.

Worship Attendance

The average in-person worship attendance for four Sundays in March and April was 44. Services had an average of 145 live and archived Facebook views.

Weekly Giving

Tithes and offerings through March totaled \$46,589, or an average of \$3,584 a week. Primary fund giving for 2025 is budgeted at \$195,000, or an average of \$3,750 a week.

Per Capita Contributions

The 2025 per capita is \$41 per member, for a total assessment of \$5,535. As of March 31, per capita contributions totaled \$1,234.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for June's issue is Thursday, **May 15**.



2024 File Photo

Jeff Shoemaker grills hamburgers and hot dogs at last year's church picnic.

Come to Church Picnic June 1 at Portstown Park

The annual church picnic will be held Sunday, **June 1**, at Portstown Park. The 10:30 a.m. worship service will be conducted at the park pavilion prior to the potluck meal.

Along with the variety of tasty dishes to sample, there will be fellowship, games and fun.

Hamburgers and hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks will be provided by the Mission and Outreach Committee. Bring your best picnic food to share, along with your own place settings.

Please fill out the reservation slip found in your Sunday bulletin and place it in the offering plate or call the church office no later than **May 25**.

All members and friends of HPC are invited.

IN MEMORIAM

The following member died recently:

Trudy McCulloch, March 19, 2025

She will be greatly missed.

Please remember her family in your prayers.

HPC Offers Krislund Camp Scholarships

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church is offering full scholarships for young people in the Huntingdon area to attend Krislund Summer Camp in eastern Centre County.

The money is coming from maintenance funds set aside decades ago when HPC became trustee of the Standing Stone Chapel in Blair Park. HPC ended its trusteeship of the chapel late last year, with the chapel reverting to the Blair family.

The session agreed with the Finance and Stewardship Committee's recommendation that the leftover funds be used for Krislund scholarships. This use would be in the spirit of Anna Fisher's gift of the chapel, which was originally built to provide Sunday school for children in the east end of Huntingdon. Miss Fisher was a niece of Kate Fisher Blair, wife of stationery entrepreneur J.C. Blair, who donated the land.

Several options exist for summer camping at Krislund. Except where indicated, the camps run for one week, and cost from \$245 to \$545:

- Day Camps for grades 1-5 and 6-8
- Mini Camp for grades 1-2 consisting of three days and two nights
- Residential Camps for grades 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12

Campers are responsible for their own transportation to and from Krislund, a Christian camp and retreat center in Madisonburg operated as a joint venture by three presbyteries.

For more information about camping options, please visit krislund.org.

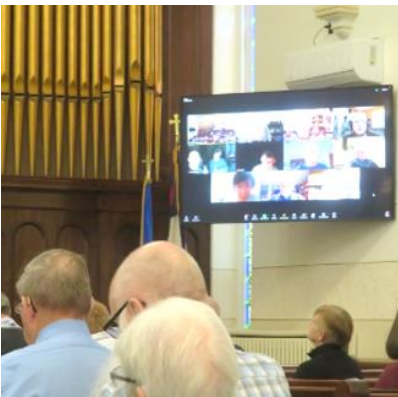
For information about scholarships, please contact HPC at 814-643-1302. You do not have to be a member of Huntingdon Presbyterian Church to receive a scholarship.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Presbytery Meets at HPC

Huntingdon Presbytery met at HPC on March 22, one of five stated meetings of the presbytery this year. Above, Presbytery Administrative Assistant Susan Ferguson



checks the registration table. Since the Covid pandemic, the presbytery has been meeting both in-person and via Zoom. At left, about a dozen commissioners participate on

Zoom. Before the meeting, the commissioners enjoy a light breakfast, below. The HPC deacons also provided lunch. The meeting featured a report from the delegation that represented the presbytery in Thailand last fall.





PW Book Club Features Story of Three Friends

Presbyterian Women's Book Club returns on Wednesday, **May 7** with the story of three women who made a difference before, during and after the Civil War.

Lenten Bible Study concluded April 9, so now it's back to all things books. Please join us at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Family Room for a discussion of *The Agitators: Three Friends Who Fought for Abolition and Women's Rights* by Dorothy Wickenden.

The three women are Harriet Tubman, famous for the Underground Railroad; Francis Seward, wife of Lincoln's Secretary of State who hid her radicalism in public; and Martha Coffin Wright, a Quaker mother of seven and "... a dangerous woman in the eyes of her neighbors ... who organized women's rights and anti-slavery conventions across New York state ..." They are unlikely friends who made a difference.

The Agitators "... opens in the 1820s when Tubman is enslaved and Wright and Seward are young homemakers bound by law and tradition, and ends after the war [the Civil War] bringing "... a vibrant, original voice to this transformative period in our history." (Amazon)

Please join PW Book Club Wednesday, May 7. Happy Reading!

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Making Prayer Chain Requests

If you have a request for the Presbyterian Women's Prayer Chain, please contact Deb Hetrick at 814-643-5424 (home) or 814-644-1653 (cell). All prayer chain requests will be kept confidential. If you would like to join the prayer chain, also please contact Deb.

Lenten Bible Group Ends; Next Year's Study Awaits

Thank you to all who attended PW's Lenten Bible Study in March and April. And a big thank you to our wonderful leader, Anita Nwaobilo.

Anita brings depth, interest and biblical knowledge to each study year after year. She is such a blessing as a teacher, as a friend, and as a woman of deep faith.

The 2026 study is already written; it is titled *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* written by the Rev. Rhashell D. Hunter.

FYI: One of the lessons is "The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent." Does that ring a bell? How close will it come to a recent excellent sermon of Pastor Brett's? Waiting is so hard. Give us patience, Lord!



Pipe Dream Collects \$367 For Human Services Agency

Presbyterian Women thank the generous members of our church family for contributing to the first Pipe Dream of 2025, which benefitted the Huntingdon County Child and Adult Development Corporation (HCCADC), a local human services agency.

The amount raised for HCCADC was \$367.54. Thank you. PW truly appreciates your kindness and continued support of each Pipe Dream.

The current Pipe Dream runs through June and benefits the volunteer Mount Union Community Library.

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PW Meeting on May 5

Presbyterian Women will hold this month's meeting at 1 p.m. on Monday, **May 5**, in the Memorial Family Room. The next meeting will be Monday, **June 2**.

Flights of Fancy Power Harry Potter Party

They crawled through a paper dragon, learned about potions and played spirited games of Quidditch at the rescheduled Harry Potter Hogwarts Party held at HPC on April 12.

Nearly 20 young people took part in the third annual event at HPC devoted to all things Harry Potter. From the monster books crafted in the Flourish & Blotts Booksellers shop to the strange beings encountered in the Care of Magical Creatures, the youngsters immersed themselves in the imaginary world of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The Mission and Outreach Committee coordinated the event, which included themed snacks in Fellowship Hall, assisted by adult volunteers.

The youngsters were divided into four groups using the talking Sorting Hat. Each group rotated to classes in a different part of the HPC building – Potions in the Memorial Family Room, Care of Magical Creatures in the sanctuary, games of Quidditch in Fellowship Hall, and Crafts in the Dyslexia Center.

The event originally was to be held in February, but was postponed because of weather.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Youngsters attempt to net pixies dangled by Zach Byers atop the audio/visual booth.



Sylvia and Mickie Byers craft monster books.



Pastor Brett demonstrates chemical reactions at the potions table.



The youngsters get snacks prior to going to their classes.



Strawberry Social on June 8

The deacons' annual Strawberry Social will take place in the Memorial Family Room after the Sunday worship service on **June 8**.

All are invited to partake of goodies such as ice cream, angel food cake, a trifle, pretzel rods, marshmallows, dipping chocolate and, of course, fresh strawberries.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Decorations Day

Volunteers filled the sanctuary with dozens of butterfly decorations – symbols of rebirth – the day before Easter. Above, Tyler Johnston places a butterfly on the wooden cross helped by Mickie Byers. Below, Jim Jackson affixes a decoration to the wall.



2024 File Photo

Auction-goers inspect the offerings before the start of last year's OGHS auction.

OGHS Auction

(Continued from First Page)

auction docket last year. Items to be auctioned were dropped off at the church office last month, with a deadline of April 27.

If you'd like to donate directly to OGHS, there are envelopes in the back of the sanctuary. The deadline for monetary contributions is Sunday, **May 11**.

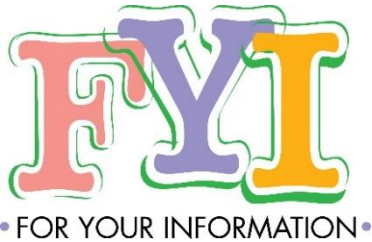
Last year's auction raised \$2,178. Coupled with \$4,660 in monetary gifts, HPC raised over \$6,800 in 2024 for One Great Hour of Sharing.

OGHS contributions are split among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The session approved the following during its monthly meeting on April 6 held in person and via Zoom:

- Pastor's request for vacation for May 26-June 2
- Use of HPC for memorial service for John Brockett Jr. on May 17
- Redesignation of money from Standing Stone Chapel maintenance fund to Krislund Camp Scholarship fund
- Next session meeting on May 18



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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Mission Project Raises \$1,665

The final total raised for the Mission and Outreach Committee's Christmas Mission Project was \$1,665. The money went to the Huntingdon Community Center's scholarship fund to help needy families with program fees.

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Sunday Liturgists Still Needed

If you are interested in sharing your gifts in Sunday worship as a liturgist, please contact the church office. If you can commit to only a week or two, the church office can coordinate that. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Sue Lang and Sylvia Byers for being liturgists on recent Sundays.

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Krislund to Hold Open House

Krislund Camp and Retreat Center in Centre County is holding an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, **May 17**. Whether you are interested in sending a child to summer camp, hosting a retreat or becoming a summer staffer, you are invited. There will be free hot dogs and snacks for lunch.

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Altoona Church Closing

After 132 years of serving Altoona, the Juniata Presbyterian Church at 522 North Seventh Avenue will hold its final service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, **May 4**. The congregation's request to dissolve was approved at the March presbytery meeting held at HPC.



Photos by Bill Caufield

Special for Palm Sunday

Deacon Sharon Caufield, above, prepares the palm branches to be given to worshipers at the Palm Sunday service. The five-member Wopsononock Winds, below, performed special music during the service.



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Thanks for the Musical Help

Thanks to the Wopsononock Winds, Keith Sutton and church musician Ivan Yumagulov for sharing their musical talent at recent services.

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Presbytery Newsletter Available

If you would like to receive by email the weekly electronic newsletter of Huntingdon Presbytery, *Presbytery Connections*, please email SusanPresbytery@gmail.com or call the presbytery at 814-682-7289 extension 0.

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Photo by Bill Caufield

Maundy Thursday

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service was held in Fellowship Hall, preceded by a “meager meal” of bread and soup.



Pastor’s Corner

(Continued from First Page)

This biblical realism and honesty applies to mothers. Some mothers are towers of strength and devotion. Hannah the mother of Samuel is a good example. She prayed to God for a son and then dedicated him to be a priest. Every year she made Samuel a new robe, which showed her deep love and devotion. God used Hannah’s love to raise up one of the most important prophets and judges in Israel’s history.

Some biblical mothers are not as praiseworthy. Think about Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau. She had a clear favorite child: Jacob. That favoritism broke apart her family for years when she convinced her favorite son to trick his father and cheat his brother out of his blessing. Jacob was forced to run away for fear of Esau’s retaliation. But God actually used Rebekah’s mistake to work out His plan for salvation. In that exile, Jacob married Leah and she gave birth to Judah. And over the course of time Jesus came from the line of Judah.

Perhaps the most comforting thing we can learn about mothers from the Bible is this:

mothers are real people, too. They work hard and do the best they can for their families, but sometimes they make mistakes like everyone else. And that is okay. Even though Rebekah made terrible mistakes as a parent, God was able to work through those mistakes and accomplish something great. God redeems our mistakes. If you are a mother, take comfort and strength from that assurance. And for all of us who have a mother (that means everyone), remember that mothers are people too.

Give thanks to God for mothers. Their sacrifice, support and love helped to make us the people we are today. And, if you need to, forgive the mistakes that mothers make. They are, after all, real people just like you in need of forgiveness and grace.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Brett D. Hoover

“Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.”

– 1 Samuel 2:19

HPC to Prepare Meal May 8

The second Thursday of the month comes early this May, so **May 8** is the date of HPC’s next shift to prepare the weekly Hometown Hearts meal. The Hometown Hearts meal is now based at St. James Lutheran Church, Sixth and Mifflin streets.

The community outreach meal program started years ago with the HPC soup kitchen, and our crew is happy to take its turn in the kitchen. For more information, please call Artamarie Barclay at 814-599-0872. HPC is not scheduled for another shift until September.

Sunday Study Focuses on Acts

The Digging Deeper study group for adults and youths is currently discussing the Book of Acts. Feel free to join the study at any time. Sunday school meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Memorial Family Room in-person and by Zoom. If you would like to participate by Zoom, please notify the church office to receive the online link.

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church

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Address Service Requested



**May
2025**



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."*



You're Invited to the Church Picnic
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