

# Clock Tower Tidings

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

June 2024



## Clock Back in Service

After an absence of nearly eight years, the historic town clock in HPC's steeple is back in service. The restored four-faced timepiece is better than ever, with the church bell chiming the hour for the first time in decades.

Balzer Family Clock Works returned the town clock's mechanical works to HPC on May 21, installing the restored mechanism in a vestibule, rather than in the steeple. Previously, Balzer had replaced and brightened the four clock faces.

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Photo by Bill Caufield

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Working to Express Your Salvation

Many of you reading this are probably aware that I was a wrestler in high school. I wasn't the best, but the experience boosted my confidence and taught me a few valuable lessons. Most of our coaches were great, knowledgeable men. They knew not every high school wrestler was destined to be a state champion, but they tried to instill in us a strong work ethic.

They would say that if you made an effort by coming to practice and taking it seriously, you would see improvement in your technique, and that would translate into better performance in matches. If you have ever been around sports, then you know about this connection. Attending practice and working hard is a sign that you understand the importance of improving your technique. At its most basic,

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## What Am I Bid?

Erica Taylor calls for bids at the auction on May 18 that raised more than \$2,000 for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Details, Page 3.



## Vacation Bible School Set for June 10-14

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, HPC will host a community Vacation Bible School. The tropical theme of "Lava Lava Luau" will focus on biblical ways of expressing and dealing with emotions.

The VBS will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, **June 10**, through Friday, **June 14**, at the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church. The five-day VBS is being conducted in conjunction with the Abbey Reformed Church.

Pre-registration can be completed online at either the HPC Facebook page or the Abbey Facebook page. The VBS is open to all children

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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. Adult Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. in the Memorial Family Room and is also available via Zoom.

### **Dates to Remember**

June 4-10 – Pastor Brett out of office  
June 5 – PW Book Club – 10 a.m.  
June 9 – Deacons' Strawberry Social  
June 10-14 – VBS – 6-8 p.m.  
June 16 – Church Picnic at Portstown Park  
June 19 – Juneteenth  
June 25-July 8 – Pastor Brett out of office

### **Food Pantry Donations**

The Huntingdon Food Pantry is requesting **tomato soup** for June. Donations can be left in the baskets in the vestibule or in the hallway near the lift.

### **Worship Attendance**

The average in-person worship attendance for four Sundays in April and May was 43. Online services had an average of 98 Facebook views.

### **Weekly Giving**

Tithes and offerings through April totaled \$65,241.58, or an average of \$3,838 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 May 1, contributions totaled \$1,622.52. If able, please pay your per capita.

### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline is Saturday, **June 15**. The next newsletter will be a combined July-August summer issue.

### **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.*

## **Please Consider Joining HPC's Prayer Chain**

The prayer chain has been an important mission for the Huntingdon Presbyterian Women for many years. Praying is such an important, and easy, thing to do for other members, so please consider becoming a part of the prayer chain.



Back in the beginning of this mission, there were no computers, cell phones or mass media. We contacted each other by telephone. It may have even been before answering machines.

The person with the prayer request would call the PW member taking the calls at the time. Then that PW would call some of the prayer chain members, those members were then to call others on the list to spread the word.

The prayer chain members' only responsibility was to pray. They could pray at the time that was more comfortable for them. Right after they received the call, while the housework was being done, before bed, or for the rest of the day. Some would then write the person to be prayed for on their prayer list. The only rule was not to spread the prayer request like gossip. No one was to be told unless the requester gave permission.

Now, in 2024, it is even easier. The prayer request is usually spread to the prayer chain by email. The request is read whenever you get to your messages. The prayer time is still the same as before.

The biggest problem currently is the prayer chain volunteer list is getting shorter. We need HPC members to join the list and pray for those who need God's help. It may be a mission of the Presbyterian Women, but anyone who would like to join this mission is welcome.

Please call me, Deb Hetrick (home – 814-643-5424, cell – 814-644-1653), and I will be glad to add you to the list.

# Auction Raises \$2,178 To Support OGHS

The annual One Great Hour of Sharing auction again raised more than \$2,000 to help people in need throughout the world during spirited bidding on Saturday afternoon, May 18.

New this year was the use of the large-screen monitors at the front of the sanctuary to show close-ups of each item being auctioned. Previously, the items were hand-carried up and down the aisles to show prospective bidders what was being offered.

This year's auction raised \$2,178, which nearly matched the \$2,490 raised last year. In addition to the auction, monetary contributions to OGHS were received through Pentecost, May 19. That sum will be added to the auction proceeds for HPC's total OGHS giving.

Pastor Brett again was auctioneer, assisted by Erica Taylor, who used the rapid-fire patter of an experienced auctioneer to spur the bidding. Meredith Taylor helped display the auction items and delivered them to winning bidders.

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 auction docket.

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.



Photos by Bill Caufield

*Pastor Brett served as lead auctioneer.*



*Phil Thompson and John Cook kept track of the bidding and collected the money.*



*Annette Lloyd tends the snack table as Jay Pierotti munches on a cookie.*



*A painting is shown on the big screen.*

*Zach Byers and John Brockett check out the items before the auction begins.*



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Photo by John Brockett

### **Strawberry Social June 9**

*The deacons' annual Strawberry Social will take place in the Memorial Family Room after the Sunday worship service on **June 9**. All are invited to stop by and partake of ice cream, angel food cake, a trifle, pretzel rods, marshmallows, dipping chocolate and, of course, fresh strawberries.*



### **Annual Church Picnic Scheduled for June 16**

**T**he annual church picnic will be held Sunday, **June 16**, at Portstown Park. Again this year, the 10:30 a.m. worship service will be



*Cornhole at 2023 picnic*

conducted at the park pavilion prior to the potluck meal. Along with the delicious meal that we Presbyterians always provide, there will be fellowship, games and fun.

Hamburgers and hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks will be provided.

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 **June 9**.

## **Adjustments Explored For Sound System**

**W**ith the completion of the outside painting and addition of a handicapped-accessible restroom, the sanctuary renovation project is nearing a close. Remaining on the Sanctuary Renovation Committee's to-do list as of mid-May is adjusting the sanctuary's sound system and carpeting the north vestibule after installation of town clock mechanical works.

The committee has been working with sound engineers to determine why it is difficult for those gathered in the sanctuary to clearly hear the words being spoken, both from the pulpit and from the congregation. The sound comes through clearly on the Facebook stream.

To address the problem, the speakers are being repositioned and more echo-deadening material will be placed around the sanctuary.

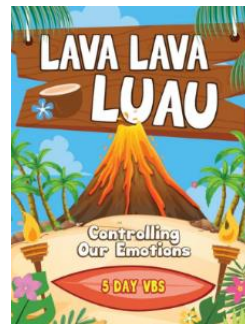
As part of the renovation, outside window frames and sills have been painted, and outside railings and light fixtures have a fresh coat of black paint. In addition, a handicapped-accessible restroom has been completed off the hallway leading to the Choir Room.



### **Vacation Bible School**

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in the community, grades kindergarten through six. Children do not need a church connection to attend.



During a fun week at the Lava Lava Luau, the children will see what the Bible says about anger, sadness, jealousy and frustration and will learn how to respond to others who may be feeling these emotions as well.

If you want to help as a volunteer, please contact the HPC church office. HPC last participated in a community VBS in 2019 and last hosted one in 2018.



## PW Gathers in Person, Fills Leadership Posts

Presbyterian Women met on April 29 for the first time in person since the Covid-19 pandemic. With the passing of PW Moderator Marian Sue McElwee, a few action items needed discussion, motions and voting.

Secretary/Treasurer Susan Lang resigned as secretary and was elected moderator. Nan Stewart was elected secretary and Anita Nwaobilo was named as second signature on the checking account and the safe deposit box.

The elected positions are effective August 1 through December 31, while the second signature was effective in May. Leadership roles will be reviewed at November and December meetings.

Prior to the voting, Sue Lang reviewed the activities on which PW focused prior to the pandemic and how those activities came through the national emergency. PW will be discussing the continuation of those activities at future meetings.

The meeting was held in the Memorial Family Room at 1 p.m. All motions made during the meeting followed Roberts' Rules of Order.

Those present enjoyed their time together and the lively discussions on a variety of topics. The next PW meeting will be Monday, June 3, at 1 p.m. in the Memorial Family Room. All agreed it was good to be back together “around the table” to dream about and pray for the future path of Presbyterian Women.

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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.

## ‘Walking Shoes’ Is Choice For July PW Book Club

**Who?** All readers and book lovers. **What?** Presbyterian Women Book Club. **When?** 10 a.m., Wednesday, **July 3**. **Where?** HPC Memorial Family Room. **Title?** *Walking Shoes* by Lynne Gentry. **Main character?** Leona Harper, who encounters “...second chances and well-intentioned folks who inadvertently sabotage them.” (Amazon)

Find a generous helping of southern humor and hope in the West Texas town of Mount Hope. “Reconciliation and healing won't come easy in this zany, trouble-filled, hilarious walk-through-grief adventure.” (Amazon) Join PW July 3 for another lively book discussion – all are welcome! Happy reading!

The club will discuss June’s book, Debbie Macomber’s *Between Friends*, at 10 a.m., Wednesday, **June 5**, in the Memorial Family Room.

## PIPE DREAM NOTES

### \$213.50 Raised for Habitat

The first PW Pipe Dream Project for 2024, benefitting our local Habitat for Humanity organization, raised \$213.50. A big thank-you for the giving spirit of our congregation! It's a good Pipe Dream start to the new year. Reminder: the Pipe Dream for May, June and July benefits Hometown Hearts, the local organization that serves free Thursday meals.

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## Marking Mother’s Day



*Vases of carnations brightened the sanctuary on Mother’s Day. The flowers were available to worshipers after the service. If you would like to contribute flower arrangements for the Sunday worship service, please contact the church office.*

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Photo by John Brockett

### **On the Farm**

*A newborn foal runs behind its mother in Big Valley. Spring is a prime time for new beginnings – for people and for foals.*



### **Pastor's Corner**

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that participation is an expression that you care.

All of this was brought to my mind as I studied a passage from Paul's Letter to the Philippians that always left me a little confused. Chapter 2 verse 12 talks about working out your salvation with fear and trembling. I was confused because I know Paul consistently explains that salvation comes completely from the work of Jesus Christ. We are not saved by what we do. We are saved by what Jesus did for us. As I studied the passage more closely, I discovered a more accurate translation would be to "express our salvation."

Paul is really encouraging us to show or express in our actions the salvation we know we have already received. Just like an athlete shows their dedication through a strong work ethic, a Christian should show overwhelming thanksgiving and praise for the salvation they have received in Jesus Christ.

How are you expressing your salvation? That question is really so important because it

frames our whole life of faith. A life of faith isn't about earning salvation from God, but it also isn't about passively sitting down to receive benefits. A life truly transformed by the gospel will express joy for that salvation through worship and acts of service.

If a neutral person were to observe your life, would they be able to see you expressing your salvation? Would they see someone excited to encounter God in worship on Sunday morning? Would they see someone using their time, talent and resources to serve God and neighbor locally and globally?

Each one of us is personally responsible for developing our discipleship and expressing the salvation we have received in Jesus Christ. The church is responsible for giving you opportunity, guidance and support, but the willingness and effort must come from you. It is my hope that we take that responsibility seriously as a congregation and as individuals. You can start that journey simply by reconnecting with the church over the summer.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Brett D. Hoover

*"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."*  
–Philippians 2:12-13



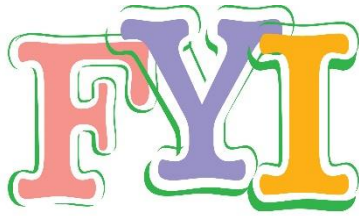
### **Presbytery Seeking Lay Preachers**

Huntingdon Presbytery is looking for elders interested in taking the lay preacher training, which can lead to service as an approved pulpit supply preacher or as a lay pastor commissioned to serve a specific church. Those interested should email the presbytery at [susanpresbytery@gmail.com](mailto:susanpresbytery@gmail.com)



### **View HPC's Facebook Page**

Stay informed about what's happening at HPC by regularly viewing updates on the church's Facebook page.



• 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](mailto:huntpc1789@gmail.com). In case of emergency, please call Pastor Brett at 724-331-5798.

Please note: Pastor Brett will be away June 4-10 and at General Assembly starting June 25 and returning to the office July 9.

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### **Pastor Friant to Preach June 9**

The Rev. Doug Friant, retired pastor of Bedford Presbyterian Church, will preach on Sunday, **June 9**, in the absence of Pastor Brett, who will be away.

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### **Thanks for Helping at Services**

Thanks to Sue Lang and Ann Dunlavy for being liturgists on recent Sundays. Thanks to Ivan Yumagulov for sharing his musical talent. If you are interested in sharing your gifts in Sunday worship as a liturgist, please contact Amanda Hetrick or the church office.

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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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### **Session Meeting Postponed**

The session meeting scheduled for May 19 has been postponed. Session Highlights from the rescheduled meeting will appear next month.

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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.



Photo by Bill Caufield

*Linda and Rick Balzer adjust HPC clockwork.*

## **Town Clock**

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The doors to the north vestibule at Fifth and Mifflin streets will be closed until the borough installs a cabinet to safely house the clockwork.

The restored mechanism brings the clock back to its original operation. One concession to modernity: the clock is wound electrically, rather than by hand – although a hand crank is available. The Balzers refurbished the original green frame, but crafted everything else – new wheels, gears and pulleys.

The borough owns the clock, which was placed in the bell tower when the church was built in 1872-73. The current clock dates to 1910, when it replaced the fire-damaged first clock.

The clock ceased operating in the fall of 2016, and a lengthy process of finding the funds for the clock ensued. The decision was made to restore the clock, rather than merely to repair it. Balzer of Freeport, Maine, one of the nation's premier tower clock restorers, was hired for the job. The final cost is expected to be several hundred thousand dollars, paid mostly through the borough's federal block grant community development money.

An open house to mark the clock's restoration, as well as highlight the recent sanctuary renovation, is expected to be held later this year.

**Huntingdon Presbyterian Church**

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814-643-1302

Address Service Requested



**June  
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.”*



**Vacation Bible School Begins June 10**

**Join the Fun at the Church Picnic on June 16**