



Deep well,
No fences

The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

APRIL 2026

The Season of Hope

As the tulips and daffodils push their way through the cold ground I remember an experience and the surprising way of hope. It was over 35 years ago. It was before I went to seminary. I was working at a church north of Seattle. And one of the things I did was drive the bus for the senior fellowship group trips.

On one early spring day we went to the tulip and daffodil fields around LaConner, Washington. And as I walked with my senior friends I learned about the great hope of gardening. A bulb sown with care in the fall lies dormant through the cold of winter. But then in the warmth and sunlight of spring something new happens; sleep gives way to new life and beauty. The daffodils and tulips break forth from the earth and cover the barren fields with new life and color. Whether it's one flower, or hundreds of acres of flowers springing up in rows that seem to go on forever, it is an amazing thing. It is a surprising wonder from the everyday work of planting. There was more beauty than I ever thought possible.

And then I began to understand, perhaps, that my senior friends had felt a cold wind of winter themselves. And the beauty of those tulip and daffodil fields reminded them of their own coming spring when "sleep" would give way to the mystery of resurrection and new life.

At its very center, Christian faith is about hope. It's the hope of forgiveness when someone is paralyzed by guilt (Mark 2:1-12). It's the hope of new life when bad choices lead to emptiness (John 7:53-8:11). It's the hope that prodigal children can come home (Luke 15:11-32). It's the hope that outsiders have a place at the table (Matthew 9:9-13). And it's the great Easter hope that death is not the end, but there is resurrection and beauty (Luke 24:5-7).

Not all things make sense to us now. There is mystery and truth and beauty beyond our understanding. And so we are given hope. It's hope to believe a bulb will become a flower. It's hope to believe the tomb is empty and Jesus is raised. And it's hope to believe we will share in the coming spring of the new creation. Resurrection is more than the limits of our knowing. It is about the bigger things of God, beauty, and hope.

Watching the Tulips and Daffodils, Glenn

April 2026 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 2 Maundy Thursday, 7:00PM. Reading of the Passion Story and **Communion**.
5 Easter Sunday. Celebration of Christ's resurrection and **Communion**.
12 2nd Sunday of Easter. Mark 16:1-8. Dr. Crooks preaching.
19 3rd Sunday of Easter. Matthew 28:16-20. Dr. Hink preaching.
26 4th Sunday of Easter. John 20:24-30. Dr. Hink preaching.

Worship Notes

- ♦ The powerful Maundy Thursday worship service will include the darkening of the sanctuary as the Passion Story is read and experienced. Everyone will also be invited to share communion by coming forward and sharing in the Last Supper. Note a simple soup and bread supper will be served in Fellowship Hall at 5:30PM.
- ♦ Easter Sunday worship will again be experienced as a liturgical drama following the resurrection story in Luke 24. The service will move from the darkness of the tomb to the light of the resurrection, from early morning resignation to Easter Sunday surprise and joy. All 1st Church members and friends are encouraged to invite and bring friends.
- ♦ During the season of Easter, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will be preaching a sermon series on the New Testaments reflections on Christ's resurrection. The series will include both the gospel stories and 1st Corinthians.

A Look Ahead at Worship

- ♦ Tentative plans are being made to once again bring Blue Grass music to worship at 1st Church on May 3rd. The sound of guitar, banjo, and mandolin bring a special joy to worship.
- ♦ Pentecost Sunday is May 24th and will include communion.
- ♦ Tentative plans are to move to Fellowship Hall for worship on June 7th. The move will depend on how warm the weather becomes. Summer worship in Fellowship Hall will once again include a/c, digital projection, and a more "relaxed feel."



Mission Corner

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me."—Mathew 25:40

Update!

- ♦ Trent Litman's Akron Children's Hospital Book Drive was completed in March with a delivery of 238 books to the hospital. Pictures will be on Dorothy's Board in April.
- ♦ Mission Turkey Luncheon Fundraiser was a huge success. Participants raised \$1,532 on March 22nd. The level of success was a reflection of our commitment to our youth.
- ♦ Blue Coats Work Team ended their project for the 2025-2026 year.

What's Coming Up?

- ♦ Frontlawners will begin mowing Fifth & Fullerton to provide a safe lot for our neighbors.
- ♦ The Mission Trip is scheduled for July of 2026, and we will continue preparation plans.
- ♦ An Education Event is scheduled for April 29th. Topic: What Is Mission?
- ♦ Plans will begin early for the Lots of Love Picnic on Fifth and Fullerton on June 25 for our neighbors down the street.

How Can I Help?

- ♦ If you want to be on the Blue Coats Work Team in the fall, contact a committee member.
- ♦ To support the Mission Trip, watch the bulletin for any future requests.
- ♦ Know your Mission Committee: Sandy Churlik, Debbie Datchuk, Debbie Derrenbacher, Lyle Derrenbacher, Patty Fletcher, Jamie Goodwin, Patty Martell, Millie Milheim, David Moser, Rebecca Moser, Tracy Plyler, Janis Benedict.

Outside Opportunities!

Pray for our foreign missionaries, Jim Leuenberger and Autumn Marshall, as it becomes more dangerous to support the oppressed areas they love—Sudan and Haiti



Remember Our Shut-Ins

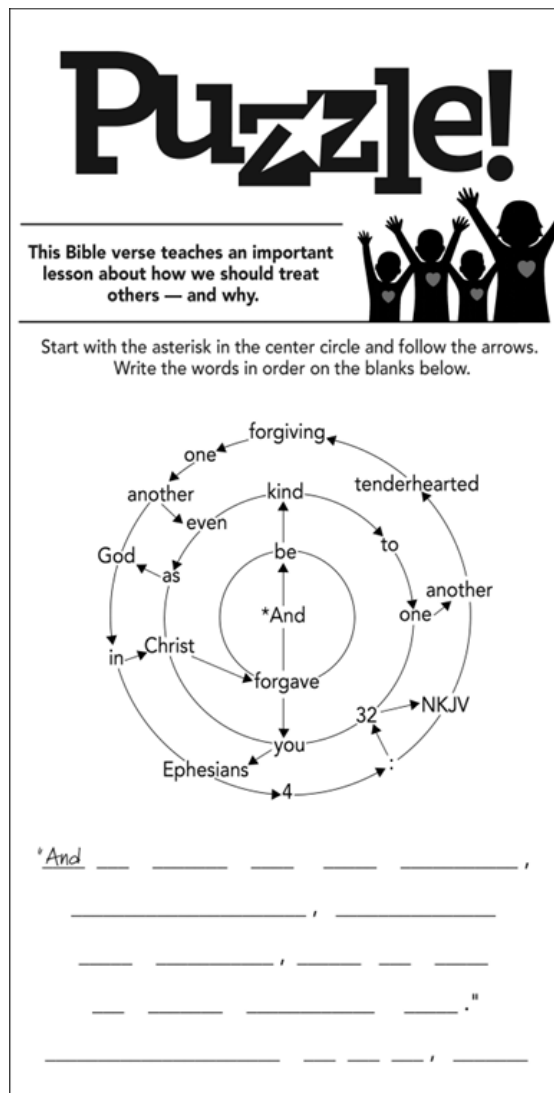
Ridgewood 724-347-0998

One Elston Way,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206

Gables Care Center
351 Lahm Dr, Hopedale, OH43976
Betty Hudson



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Paul Goodwin | 18 Mia Esper |
| 2 Albert Jones | 21 Lee Ann Sok |
| 3 Chase Bender | 23 Missa Eaton |
| 4 John Reed | 24 Charles Jurenovich |
| 4 Robert Cunningham | 24 Olivia Ruth |
| 5 Stephanie Plyler | 25 Margaret Warren |
| 6 Erica McCracken | 25 Connor Raatz |
| 7 Linda Willey | 26 Beth Jurenovich |
| 10 David Hofing | 28 Tom Amundsen |
| 13 Jamie Goodwin | 29 Rosann Sauers |
| 13 Dustin Donner | 30 John Donner II |
| 18 Elizabeth Esper | |



Special Dates in April

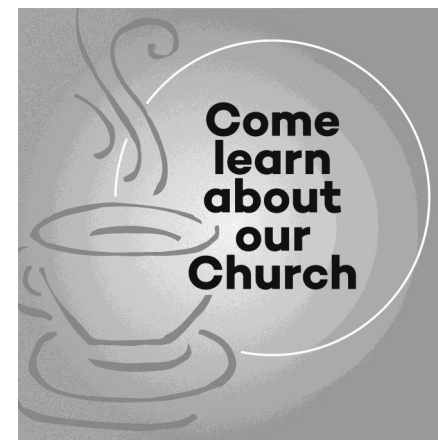
- ♦ Holy Week, March 29-April 5
- ♦ Maundy Thursday, April 2
- ♦ Good Friday, April 3
- ♦ Easter, April 5
- ♦ Earth Day, April 22
- ♦ Administrative Professionals, April 22

ADULT Sunday School

The Prophets

Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will continue the Sunday School class on the OT prophets through the spring. The class meets in Fellowship Hall 10:00-10:45AM. Focus is on the prophets' historical context and their major themes for interpretation. The prophets don't so much "foretell" God's plan as they "forthtell" God's word. And the prophets have a critical part to play in the life and ministry of Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

Membership Class



The spring membership class was March 15 and repeated on March 29. New members joined on Easter Sunday. If there is interest, Dr. Hink will lead a summer membership class. The class discusses 1st Church history, 1st Church organization and staff, a little Presbyterian theology, and how to become a member. Anyone interested in the summer membership class should contact Nancy in the church office (724-981-2211, ext. 1 or nancy.fritz@1stpcs.org).



Easter is the proof that evil men never have the last word about the things of God.—C. Neil Strait

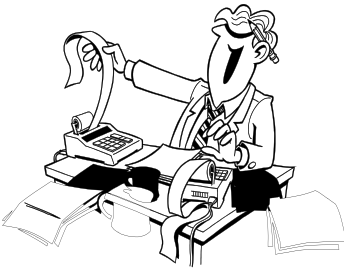
God expects from [people] that their Easter devotions would in some measure come up to their Easter dress.—Robert Smith

Easter is the great proclamation and promise of God that nothing can overcome God's love, not even the murder of the Son of God.—Charles Ferrell

I've learned that people are more influenced by how much I care than by how much I know.—Anonymous

Church Attendance for February 2026

2025		2026		Online
2nd	86	1st	84	77 views
9th	60	8th	90	86 views
16th	67	15th	108	66 views
23rd	<u>110</u>	22nd	<u>75</u>	
	323		357	
30%		38%		



Tea Party

Presbyterian Women
of First Presbyterian Church

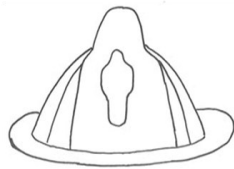
Invite you to a tea

Sunday, May 31, 2026 12:15 PM in Fellowship Hall

Financial Giving News
February 2026

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	3,281.75	1st Sunday	512.25
2nd Sunday	3,319.25	2nd Sunday	549.75
3rd Sunday	8,227.25	3rd Sunday	754.75
4th Sunday	1,805.25	4th Sunday	454.75
Total for February	16,633.50	Total for February	2,271.50
Budget for February	15,718.42	Budget for February	1,333.33
Balance for February	915.08	Balance for February	938.17
Total for Year to Date	26,452.98	Total for Year to Date	3,393.00
Budget for Year to Date	31,436.83	Budget for Year to Date	2,666.67
Balance for Year to Date	(4,983.85)	Balance for Year to Date	726.33

MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM



Sharon Police Department
April Adopt-a-Cop
Capt. Adam Zazado

Sharon Fire Department
April Adopt-a-Firefighter
Matthew B. Grove



HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY OF NEW LIFE

The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



The seasons, they fly by...

Where have the past three months gone? It seems to me that we just finished the Christmas season. Despite the long, bitter cold of February—which had overstayed any kind of welcome it might have had after about six minutes—here we are, already in spring! Through the seasons of Lent and Easter, and heading toward Pentecost!

And what seasons they have been! Looking back over Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the extraordinary music that filled our sanctuary during these most holy times of the year. From the rich harmonies of our Sanctuary Choir to the majestic fanfares of the Youngstown Fine Arts Brass; with the mysterious and mighty colors of our amazing organ; and from the shimmering tones of the Carillon Choir's handbells to the ethereal and serene artistry of Harper Kirk, the music of these seasons spoke to the heart in ways that words simply cannot.

And while we're on the subject of speaking to the heart: Boar's Head. January's festival was a resounding success by every measure—the pageantry, the costumes, the music, the spirit of it all came together beautifully, and the enthusiasm from our congregation and guests was wonderful to witness. This annual tradition never gets old, and it remains one of the most joyful and moving ways we can close out the Christmas season together as a community of faith. A heartfelt thank you to everyone on the Boar's Head Committee and all who worked behind the scenes to make it happen.

Many thanks as always to our fantastic organist, Nicole, and our wonderful guest musicians and Music Scholars. Their continued dedication and talent remain one of the great assets of this program. They never fail to elevate what we do here.

Finally, a reminder: both our Sanctuary Choir and Carillon Choir are always welcoming new members. No audition, no prior experience, and no previous knowledge of singing or handbells is required—only a willingness to participate and a desire to contribute to our worship through music. If you have ever been curious, now is a wonderful time to come and see what we're all about. Try one, try the other, or try both! We have a place for you.

Blessings,

Stephen

April Amusements



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Sundays in April</i> 9:00 Choir Practice-303 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship@First FH = Fellowship Hall CR = Conference Rm.			1 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106	2  5:30 Soup Dinner-FH 7:00 Worship	3	4
5 	6 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Shenango Valley Chorale-FH	7 6:00 Nom Com-CR	8 12:00 Mary/Martha Circle-FH 12:00 Staff Lunch 1:30 Program Staff-CR	9	10	11
12 10:00 D&M Team Library 12:00 Congregational Meeting -Annual Reports 12:15 Deacons-106 12:15 Worship Team-Parlor 12:15 Mission Team-FH	13 7:00 Shenango Valley Chorale-FH	14 1:00 PWCT-106	15 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106 5:00 Admin. Team-CR	16	17	18 10:00 SVC Board-206
19 6:00 Session-206 6:00 Poetry Prose Pastry-Library	20 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Shenango Valley Chorale-FH	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 6:00 FLOW Meeting Group-Library 6:00 Scouts Red & White Banquet-FH	28 6:00 Amateur Radio-FH	29 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 5:30 Mission Educational Event-FH	30		