



First Presbyterian Church of Hawley

September 2026
Newsletter

*Sunday
Worship Service
meets at 10:00am*

From the Pastor's Desk...

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
Colossians 3:23-24*

Sermons:

*September 6, 2026
Communion Sunday
"Hanging in the
Balance"
Romans 13:8-14*

*September 13, 2026
"Be an Influencer"
Romans 14:1-12*

*September 20, 2026
"Color Me Green"
Matthew 20:1-16*

*September 27, 2026
"Pass It On"
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16*

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*Worship online with
Facebook Live:*

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresHawley>

Beginning in the late 19th century, the trade union and labor movements promoted the idea of a day in which to celebrate labor. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to make Labor Day an official public holiday. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into making Labor Day a federal holiday, for federal workers only mind you. Labor Day is a day set aside to recognize the contributions of American workers. Remember, this holiday emerged during a time of poor working conditions, long hours, and low wages for American workers. Sadly, many workers are still dealing with low wages, poor benefits, and other needs as they struggle to etch out a living.

However, I still think it is a great idea to celebrate work. From a biblical point of view work is a gift of God. In fact, the very first job was gardening. Labor is more than a paycheck and paying the bills. Work can give us purpose, focus, and a sense of accomplishment. Through work we learn new skills, build relationships, support our communities, provide for our family and become part of something bigger than ourselves.

Paul adds a spiritual dimension to labor when he reminds us of who we are truly working for, the Lord. Paul tells the Church, and in particular the servants of the time, that your real master is not the boss, but rather the Boss of all bosses. Do your work as a service to God, even if it is not the most ideal employment situation. This means we bring our faith to work when we work with integrity, compassion, and love. We speak truth, look out for our fellow workers, give our best efforts, and do what we can to improve the company and work environment.

Lastly, let us take time to thank God we have a job, we have skills and a place to use them. Thank the Lord for the health and intelligence to be able to labor. Labor Day may signal that summer is coming to an end, but working for the Lord never truly ends. Let us remember who we serve. Amen.

**By God's Wondrous Grace,
Pastor Mark Juengel**

COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee Chairs

Finance – Bill Rockafellow
Christian Ed – Jill Juengel
Co-Treasurers – Karen Lutz & Jim Brewington
Deacons – John Ehlers
Mission: Jim Mould
Music & Worship – Ann Marie Grillk
Music Director - Matthew Rupcich
Parish Life – Kika Dyson
Session – Rev. Mark Juengel
Personnel – Joe Jauss
Nominating & Clerk of Session – Chris Caruso



9/6: Parish Life Meeting
9/8: 12:15pm - Worship & Music Mtg.
9/10: 9am – Finance Mtg
9/13: Deacons Meeting
9/20: 5:30pm – Mission's Committee Mtg.
9/22: 12:15pm – Personnel Committee
9/22: 6pm – Session Meeting

Stewardship Thought

"The measure of stewardship is not how much we have, but how faithfully we use it."



Session News

At the July Session Meeting we approved the replacement of the Sanctuary roof shingles as well as the Sanctuary gutters. This will help divert water away from the building. We also approved a treatment for the basement to keep moisture in check. The total cost for all three projects is not to exceed \$55,000. This is being paid from interest earned from our investment account.

We also took action to form a partnership with MDM Honduras. This is an international organization that works with mountain people in Honduras to bring affordable housing, food security, health, and education to children of the area. You will be hearing more about this in the future.

The Session is focusing on Hospitality, especially in the areas of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Joanne Weiss and Women's Retreat Gratitude As A Spiritual Path Saturday, October 24th 9:00am to 4:00pm

The Christian Education committee will be sponsoring a women's retreat on **Saturday, October 24th from 9:00am- 4:00pm**. We will gather in *Blough Hall* at **9:00am** for some fellowship with coffee, tea and some light refreshments. Our program will begin at 9:30am. We will break for lunch at noon. You are asked to bring your own bagged lunch. We will provide the beverages. Our good friend Rev. Dr. Joanne Weiss will present the theme Gratitude as a Spiritual Path:

All of the Spiritual traditions encourage us to live with a grateful heart. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul writes, "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ for you." What a challenge, especially when personal and collective suffering is great! While we may want to live in gratitude, much of the time our focus keeps looping in complaints, negativity, and fears despite our best intentions.

This one-day retreat will draw on contemplative traditions, neuroscience, and 21st century tools of psychology to give us practices and tools to cultivate gratitude as a core spiritual practice that changes the way we show up in life in relationship to God, to ourselves, to others, and to the world.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the entry way so we know how many to expect. You are welcome/encouraged to invite a friend. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions please check with Jill Juengel. Join us on Saturday, October 24th for a day to slow down, come home to yourself, and learn some practical ways of being more present in your life with a grateful heart! Mark your calendars. For additional information, please see *Jill Juengel*.

The Rev. Dr. Joanne G. Weiss lives outside of Lake Ariel, PA. She holds graduate degrees in theology, music, and clinical social work and her professional life over the last 40 years as a college music teacher, pastor and university chaplain, and psychotherapist reflects her varied background. She currently maintains a private practice in Clarks Summit, has led retreats since 1991, and serves as supply pastor throughout the Presbytery.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS – SEPTEMBER

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer, please Sign-Up in the vestibule to be an **Usher** and to **host Coffee Hour**. For **Liturgists**, see *Adele Harrison*, and to help with Communion, see *Ann Marie Grilk*.

September - Coffee Hour

9/6: TBD
9/13: Pat Buck & Jody
9/20: TBD
9/27: TBD

September - Flower Donations

9/6: TBD
9/13: Jody Koch
9/20: TBD
9/27: TBD

September Good News Café

9/12: Pat Buck
9/26: Sherry Milliken

September - Liturgists

9/6-TBD
9/13-Sherry Milliken
9/20-TBD
9/27-Tom Visgilio

September - Ushers

9/6: Pat Buck & Jody Koch
9/13: Jane Jauss & Jill Juengel
9/20: Beth & Cliff Crowley
9/27: Grace & Herb Laird

September - Communion Servers (September 6th)

Set Up & Clean Up:
Jill Juengel
Servers: Jill Juengel
Becky Lee
Pat Gemeinhardt
Heather Caruso
Clara Kelly

CHURCH LIFE

Donate to FPCH

Thank you for your continued financial support. You may use the church's website: (<https://www.fpchawley.org>) or feel free to send a check directly to the church at *815 Church Street, Hawley, PA*. Your support is appreciated.

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Thursday Morning Fall Bible Study

In September we will begin our Thursday morning Bible Study with an exploration of the **Psalms**. These hymns and prayers are some of the most read and beloved parts of scripture. Their ability to comfort, inspire, and lift us up in praise is precious to our faith journey. We will explore the importance of the Psalms, how to understand them, and the impact they have on our worship of God. Come and join us on this journey through the Psalms beginning **September 10th at 11:00 am**. We meet in the Conference Room of the **Samford House**.

CHURCH LIFE (Cont'd.)

M&M Group Study

The M&M Group meets **Monday's at 11:00am** at the home of **Betsy Yergey, 27 Lake Drive, Hawley**. For a curriculum see the Study Sheet from the previous Sunday sermon. All are welcome.

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Good News Café

The Good News Café will be on **September 9th** and on **September 26th**. A seated lunch meal is provided. The Café is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 11:30am–1:00pm. Please direct questions concerning signing up to cook a meal or to help serve **Eileen Brewington, Pat Gemeinhardt or Karen Rockafellow**. Your help and support are much appreciated.

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Books

There is a bookcase full of books in the Social Hall. *Please feel free to take them home.*

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October Newsletter

Our next Newsletter will be in **October 2026**. Articles for our next monthly Newsletter need to be in the office by **Wednesday, September 16th**. *The Newsletter will go to print on the 26th of each month. Any articles submitted after the 26th will go on the following month's Newsletter.*

Joys & Concerns

For a most recent Prayer List, please go to the Church's website at <https://www.fpchawley.org/>

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Home Communion

Pastor Mark is giving Home Communion on the first Sunday of each month. *If you are homebound and would like to receive communion please contact the church office the week before.* Communion will be received in the afternoon following worship.

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The Book Club meeting is on **Friday, September 18th**. The **September** Book is *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts, (Sally) (Pat). If you would like to know more about our Book Club, please contact **Melanie Tek-Visgilio**.

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Office Hours

*Monday–Thursday
8:00am–1:00pm
Closed Fridays*

*Please note that the office will be closed on **Monday September 7th** in observance of Labor Day.*

CHURCH LIFE – Cont'd.



9/5: John & Sue Ehlers
9/8: Tom Kulesza & Rev. Dr. Joanne Weiss
9/10: Brooke & Mark James

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9/2: Alesia Burton
9/6: Lora Protzman
9/15: Sue Ehlers
9/16: Jennifer Kiesendahl
9/20: Bud Harrison
9/23: Barbara Schofield
9/26: Joy LoGiudice



COMMUNITY EVENTS



For those in need of support the church hosts AA meetings, **every Monday and Wednesdays at 12:00pm.**



The Lion's Club

The Lion's Club will not be meeting **Thursday, September 17th**. For more information, please contact **Pat Bartleson.**

The Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild



The Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild will meet in Blough Hall on **Monday, September 14th from 2-6pm.** There will be an open sew from 2pm to 4pm for personal projects. Beginning at 4pm we will have a short business meeting followed by 'sew and tell', a small project to work on, and time to visit with one another. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to join us. For more information contact Deb Jacobson at debszoo@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS – (Cont'd.)

Hawley Borough 9/11 Community Service

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, which resulted in 2,977 deaths and thousands more injured. Included in the loss of life were 343 firefighters and 72 members of law enforcement. On **Friday, September 11, 2026** the Hawley Borough is hosting a community ceremony to honor the victims of this terrible day. The ceremony will be held at **Bingham Park beginning at 10am**. Reverend Mark will deliver the Invocation for the day.

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Tafton Fire Department September 6th 8am-12pm

The Tafton Fire Department is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on **September 6th from 8am-12pm** at 235 Rt. 507, Tafton PA. for more information, please contact Josephine at 647-208-6289 or the Tafton Fire Dept. at 570-226-4273.

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Hawley Borough

The Mission Committee will be hosting the following upcoming events:



Community Yard Sale Saturday, September 5th 9am-5pm

The church will serve as a host for Hawley's annual community yard sale day on **Saturday, September 5th**. If you would like to reserve a spot to sell your stuff, please contact **Michelle Westbrook**, space is limited. Please note that you are responsible for the set-up & breakdown/clean-up of your space.



Hawley Harvest Hoedown Saturday, October 3rd 11am-5pm

The church would like to participate in the annual Hawley Harvest Hoedown on **Saturday, October 3rd** and we need volunteers. We will have morning and afternoon shifts available. If you are able to volunteer, please sign up using the Sign-Up sheet in the entryway or contact **Jim Mould**.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir	2 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	3 11am: Bible Study	4	5 9am-5pm: Community Yard Sale
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship 11am: Coffee Hr. Parish Life Mtg.	7 <i>Labor Day (Office Closed)</i> 11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA	8 10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 12:15: Worship & Music Mtg	9 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	10 9am: Finance Mtg. 11am: Bible Study	11 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> 10am: 9/11 Community Service (Bingham Park)	12 11:30am-1pm: Good News Café
13 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship Deacon's Mtg.	14 11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA 2-6pm: WH Quilters	15 10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir	16 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	17 11am: Bible Study 5:30pm-8pm: Lion's Club	18 1pm: Book Club	19
20 <i>Yom Kippur</i> 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship Missions Mtg.	21 11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA	22 10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 12:15pm: Personnel Mtg. 6:00pm: Session Mtg	23 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	24 11am: Bible Study	24	26 11:30am-1pm: Good News Café
27 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship	28 11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA	29 10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir	30 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.			

