



First Presbyterian Church of Hawley

May 2026 Newsletter

*Sunday Worship Service
meets at 10:00am*

From the Pastor's Desk...

*“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we
might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”*

I Peter 2:24

Sermons:

May 3, 2026

Communion Sunday

“Got Milk?”

I Peter 2:2-10

Took on the weight.

Have you ever lifted a heavy object? Maybe you needed to move the couch, filled the reusable bag of groceries, or attempt to lift a growing grandchild. Our bodies have a way of letting us know when we pick up an object that is beyond our normal capacity. Joints creak, muscles strain, and the heart beats faster. It is good to push our bodies beyond their normal range, but not to the point where we injure ourselves. It is wise to know when to ask for help rather than suffer the results of overdoing it.

May 10, 2026

Mother's Day

*“What's A Mother to
Do?”*

I Peter 3:13-22

The passage from first Peter speaks about weight lifting. It tells us Jesus not only helped us to lift but actually took the whole weight upon himself. He bore the burden on our behalf. Of course, the author is speaking about the weight of sin, but the imagery is important. It means we don't have to carry it anymore. We don't have to keep punishing ourselves for past mistakes. We no longer need to live weighed down. The good news of the gospel is the weight has been lifted so we might be healed and live the life God created us for.

May 17, 2026

Guest Pastor

Jimmy Hopper

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

Memorial Day - 25

*“When the Spirit Moves
You”*

Numbers 11:24-30

Jesus is the prime lifter of our souls, but he recruits his Church to bear one another's burdens. Perhaps Hebrews said it best, “Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...” Part of our faith in action is allowing Christ to lift the weight that weighs us down, and in turn to lift the weight others are bearing so that all might travel this journey with lightness and joy. What stones will we move this day?

May 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday

“The Kissing Church”

II Corinthians 13:11-13

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Worship online with

Facebook Live:

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

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 Grilk
Music Director - Matthew Rupcich
Parish Life – Kika Dyson
Session – Rev. Mark Juengel
Personnel – Joe Jauss
Nominating & Clerk of Session – Chris Caruso



5/3: Parish Life Meeting
5/10: Deacons Meeting
5/9: 9am – Finance Mtg
5/12: 12:15pm - Worship & Music Mtg.
5/17: 5:30pm – Mission’s Committee Mtg.
5/26: 12:15pm – Personnel Committee
4/26: 6pm – Session Meeting

Vacation Leave

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from **May 12th – May 17th**. *Pastor Jimmy Hopper will fill the pulpit and lead us in worship on **Sunday, May 17th**.*

Presbytery Meeting **Saturday, May 16th 10am**

The new Mountain Laurel Presbytery will hold its second called meeting for the year on **Saturday, May 16th** at the Valley United Presbyterian Church in Waverly, NY. Our Presbytery representative this year is Elder Jim Mould. However, anyone is welcome to attend this gathering. Just contact *Rev. Mark* and he will get you registered.

Worship and Music Committee Geraniums for Pentecost



If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday, order form will be available from **Sunday, April 26th - May 17th** for:

4" Red Geraniums Pot = \$5.00 each.

If you have any questions or are interested, please see *Ann Marie Grilk*. We will be planting the Geraniums on **Tuesday, May 26th at 12:15pm**. All are welcome to join.

Spring Regional Synod **May 20**

The Spring Regional gathering for the Synod of the Trinity takes place Wednesday, May 20. The meeting for our region will be held at *Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus, PA*. Rev. Mark is the Mountain Laurel Presbytery’s representative.

WORSHIP INFORMATION



Thursday, May 7th is the *National Day of Prayer*. This day's observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." Prayer is an integral part of our faith and its formation. It nurtures our relationship with God and one another. Through prayer, God guides, shapes, and empowers us to live as faithful disciples. Take time to pray for our nation, school systems, borough, state, judicial system, firefighters, military personnel, and police.

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Pentecost Sunday **May 24th**

Happy Birthday Church! Pentecost Sunday is the day we celebrate our humble beginning. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit set the first disciples to proclaim the good news to all the world. Their work laid the foundation for all the generations to come. Praise be to God! Our celebration will be held **Sunday, June 8th** wear something **Red** to symbolize the fire of the Spirit within us.

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Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

- Mother's Day, May 10th - 10am
- Pentecost Sunday, May 24th - 10am
- *(Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th – (office closed)*
- Trinity Sunday, May 31st - 10am



Mother's Day **Sunday, May 10th**

On **Sunday, May 10th** we will celebrate all the women in our lives who have raised us, taught us, and most importantly loved us. The sermon for the day is "**What's a Mother to Do?**" based on 1 Peter 3:13-22. Come and let us give thanks to those special women who have blessed us.

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Memorial Day **May 25th**

We honor all those who have served in the US military, but on Memorial Day in particular, we commemorate the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. Memorial Day dates to the 1860s, and it remembers the thousands of soldiers that lost their lives during the Civil War. It took many years to become an official national holiday, but the need to remember and give thanks didn't wait. Let us pause to acknowledge the courage of those who willingly stood in harm's way and paid the terrible cost.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - MAY

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*.

May - Coffee Hour

5/3: Jill Juengel
5/10: TBD
5/17: TBD
5/24: TBD
5/31: TBD

May - Flower Donations

5/3: TBD
5/10: TBD
5/17: TBD
5/24: TBD
5/31: TBD

May - Good News Café

5/11: Kika Dyson & Pat Gemeinhardt
5/25: Janet Jauss

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May - Liturgists

5/3: Tom Visgilio
5/10: TBD
5/17: Joe Jauss
5/24: Patrick Field
5/31: Nancy Vignau

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May - Ushers

5/3: Cathy Lee & Jane Jauss
5/10: Kika Dyson & Pat Gemeinhardt
5/17: Don Granza & Robert Pinkney
5/24: Pat Buck & Jody Koch
5/31: TBD

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May - Communion Servers

(May 12th)

Set Up & Clean Up: Chris Caruso
Servers: Chris Caruso
Bill Chicoski
Pat Gemeinhardt
Patrick Field
Alesia Burton

UPCOMING EVENTS

TAGS AND TREASURES!

Saturday, May 30th

Plans are in place for our annual Tags and Treasures event that will be held on **Saturday, May 30th** from **9:00am to 4:00pm**. We welcome all donations from members, friends and family EXCEPT clothing and electronics. Books are also discouraged. We began accepting donations of items on **Sunday, April 26th**. Please reach out to *Bill Rockafellow, Karen Lutz or Kika Dyson* for more information. The full schedule of drop-off dates in May is as follows:

Drop-Off Schedule:

Sunday, May 3rd – 11:30am-1pm
Sunday, May 10th – 11:30am-1pm
Thursday, May 14th – 3pm-5:30pm
Sunday, May 17th – 11:30am-1pm
Thursday, May 21st – 3pm-5:30pm
Sunday, May 24th – 11:30am-1pm

To schedule a pick-up, please contact Bill Rockafellow (570)390-7809

Set-Up Dates:

Thursday, May 28th – 9am &
Friday, May 29th – 9am

Tags & Treasures Event

May 30th – 9am-4pm

*To volunteer to help with the set-up or on the day of the event please speak to **Bill Rockafellow, Karen Lutz or Kika Dyson**.*

UPCOMING EVENTS - Cont'd.

Legends of Stage and Screen:

Arcadia
CHORALE
Matthew Rupcich, Music Director



BROADWAY, HOLLYWOOD, and the Golden Era of Song

A Pops Concert with the Doug Smith Jazz Trio

One Night Only:

Friday, May 15 at 8:00pm

In the Sawtelle Auditorium at Covenant Church, Scranton

Tickets

Adults \$15
Seniors/WVIA Members \$12
Students free

From on-screen serenades to Broadway showstoppers, this Pops concert with the Doug Smith Jazz Trio brings to life the unforgettable music that defined generations.



Visit arcadiachorale.org
or Scan the QR code

2026 concert season sponsored in part by grants from:



Lackawanna
County
Commissioners
Bill Gaughan • Thom Welby • Chris Chermak

CHURCH LIFE

Columbarium Update



In case you haven't noticed, there has been an update to the church columbarium. The Cross base and frame were built from a communion table. That table had three panels in the front with church symbols. Our custodian Sean built the original columbarium and then stored the panels over the past several years. During this past winter he refurbished them and brought them to the church. They now hang over and around the columbarium once again reunited with the table below. Thank you for your labor, Sean.

CHURCH LIFE - Cont'd.

Books

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

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Bible Studies Philippians

Begins April 16th & Ends May 28th

Our Thursday morning study group has completed its journey through the Creeds and Confessions of our denomination. In April, we will begin a new walk through Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. This was one of the Apostle's most joyous letters that affirms his faith in Christ Jesus even while under house arrest. Come and join us at 11:00am for the next six weeks.

Joys & Concerns

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

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Prayer Group Wednesday Evenings - 6:30pm

Rev. Mark has begun a weekly Prayer Group for all who are interested in joining in prayer. We take time to center ourselves, dwell in the word, listen and offer our prayers of thanks and intercession. If you would like prayers of healing, prayers of discernment, prayers of gifting, or just a desire to draw near to God, come and experience Christ's love for you.

CHURCH LIFE - Cont'd.

Monthly Hymn Reflection - May

One of the great treasures of the Church is its hymnody. The hymns we sing each week are more than beautiful melodies paired with meaningful words—they are stories of faith, perseverance, hope, and deep devotion. Behind every hymn is a history, a personal testimony, and often a remarkable journey.

It is my hope to highlight one hymn in each newsletter, exploring the background and story behind both its text and tune. I will be drawing from Robert J. Morgan's wonderful resources, *Then Sings My Soul*, Books I and II, which uncover the rich and often surprising histories of many beloved hymns.

My hope is that, as we come to know these hymns more deeply, they will speak to us in new ways and enrich our singing in worship.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (1779)

In the November, 1799, issue of *The Gospel Magazine*, edited by Augustus Toplady, there appeared an anonymous hymn entitled "On the Resurrection, the Lord is King:"

All Hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

The author, it was later revealed, was Rev. Edward Perronet.

Edward's Protestant grandparents had fled Catholic France, going first to Switzerland and, then to England. Edward's father had become a vicar in the Anglican Church, and Edward followed in his footsteps.

For several years, he became closely allied with the Wesleys, traveling with them and sometimes caught up in their adventures. In John Wesley's journal, we find this entry: "Edward Perronet was thrown down and rolled in mud and mire. Stones were hurled and windows broken."

In time, however, Edward broke with the Wesleys over various Methodist policies, and John Wesley excluded his hymns from Methodist hymnals. Edward went off to pastor a small independent church in Canterbury, where he died on January 22, 1792. His last words were "Glory to God in the height of His divinity! Glory to God in the depth of His humanity! Glory to God in His all-sufficiency! Into His hands I commend my spirit."

Edward Perronet's hymn, "All Hail the Power," has earned him an indelible place in the history of church music. It also has a place in missionary history, being greatly used in evangelistic endeavors. Rev. E. P. Scott, for example, missionary to India, wrote of trying to reach a savage tribe in the Indian subcontinent. Ignoring the pleadings of his friends, he set off into the dangerous territory. Several days later, he met a large party of warriors who surrounded him, their spears pointed at his heart.

Expecting to die at any moment, Scott took out his violin, breathed a prayer, closed his eyes, and began singing, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" When he reached the words, "Let every kindred, every tribe," he opened his eyes. There stood the warriors, some in tears, every spear lowered. Scott spent the next two years evangelizing the tribe.

(Then Sings My Soul; Robert J. Morgan, 2003)

CHURCH LIFE - Cont'd.

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.

Office Hours

*Monday–Thursday
8:00am–1:00pm - Closed Fridays
Closed Monday – May 25th
in observance of Memorial Day*

Books

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

May Newsletter

Our next Newsletter will be in **June 2026**. Articles for our next monthly Newsletter need to be in the office by **Wednesday, May 13th**.

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.

Good News Café

The Good News Café will be on **May 9th** and on **May 23rd**. 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.

Monday Small Group Study

The Small Study 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.

Joys & Concerns

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

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.



The Book Club meeting is on **Friday, May 15th**. The February Book is *Long Time Gone* by *Charlie Donlea (JJ)*. If you would like to know more about our Book Club, please contact *Melanie Tek-Visgilio*.

CHURCH LIFE - Cont'd.



- 5/3: Therese Dux
- 5/5: Kathy Smith
- 5/7: Carol Cowan & Patti Kiesendahl
- 5/8: Heather Caruso
- 5/12: Emma Waszczak
- 5/13: Pat Buck
- 5/19: Mark James
- 5/28: Sue Bortner
- 5/30: Kevin Miller & Robert Murray
- 5/30: Brad Kiesendahl & Don Granza



The Thursday, April 23 Red Cross Blood Drive was the most successful drive in recent history! A total of 43 pints were collected, and six donors were First Presbyterian Church members: *Sue Goldbach, Ann Marie Grilk, Maria MacArthur, Barbara Schariest, Melanie Tek-Visgilio and Michelle Westbrook.*

Several different kinds of cookies and brownies provided donors a special treat at the canteen where Bill Chicosky greeted them following their donations. Thanks to all who helped to maintain a local blood supply. **The next drive at First Presbyterian Church of Hawley is Thursday, August 13th.**



- 5/17: Brad & Jennifer Kiesendahl
- 5/18: Kevin & Oressa Miller
- 5/24: Grace & Herb Laird
- 5/27: Tom Visgilio & Melanie Tek-Visgilio
- 5/28: John & Sherry Milliken

COMMUNITY EVENTS



For those in need of support the church hosts **AA & NA** meetings as follows:

- **AA – Every Monday and Wednesdays at 12:00pm**



The Lion's Club

The Lion's Club will not be meeting **Thursday, May 21st**. For more information, please contact **Pat Bartleson.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS - Cont'd.

The Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild



The Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild will meet in Blough Hall on **May 18th from 2-6pm**. There will be an "open sew" from 2 to 4 to begin cutting fabrics for the Quilt of Valor quilt which we plan to make this year in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary. 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



May 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Sunday 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship 11am: Coffee Hr. Parish Life Mtg. 11:30am-1pm: Tags & Treasures Drop-Off	Garbage P/U 11am: Small Grp. Monday 12pm: AA	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir	12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	Recycling P/U National Day of Prayer 11am: Bible Study		11:30am-1pm: Good News Café
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship Deacon's Mtg. 11:30am-1pm: Tags & Treasures Drop-Off	11am: Small Grp. Monday 12pm: AA	Pastor Mark - Vacation				
		10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 12:15: Worship & Music Mtg	12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	9am: Finance Mtg. 11am: Bible Study (Cancelled) 3pm-5:30pm: Tags & Treasures Drop-Off	1pm: Book Club	Mt. Laurel Presbytery Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pastor Mark - Vacation 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship Missions Mtg. 11:30am-1pm: Tags & Treasures Drop-Off	Garbage P/U 11am: Small Grp. Monday 12pm: AA 2-6pm: WH Quilters	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir	12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp. Spring Regional Synod	Recycling P/U 11am: Bible Study 3pm-5:30pm: Tags & Treasures Drop-Off 5:30pm-8pm: Lion's Club		11:30am-1pm: Good News Café
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pentecost Sunday 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship 11:30am-1pm: Tags & Treasures Drop-Off	Memorial Day (Office Closed) 11am: Small Grp. Monday 12pm: AA	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 12:15pm: Geranium Planting 12:15pm: Personnel Mtg. 6:00pm: Session Mtg.	12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	9:00am: Tags & Treasures Set-up 11am: Bible Study	9:00am: Tags & Treasures Set-up	9am-4pm: Tags & Treasures
31	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>HAPPY Mother's DAY</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MEMORIAL DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED</p> </div> </div>					
Trinity Sunday 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship 11am: Coffee Hr.						