



First Presbyterian Church of Hawley

November 2026
Newsletter

Sunday

Worship Service
meets at 10:00am

Sermons:

November 1, 2026

Daylight Saving Time
All Saints Day & First
Responders Sunday
"The Keeper of Us All"
Psalms 121

November 8, 2026

Communion
"The Sound of the
Trumpet"
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

November 15, 2026

Hunger & Homelessness
Sunday
"The Art of Passive
Income"
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday Bulletin

November 22, 2026
"A Good Pasture"
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent
"The Restoration
Project"
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Worship online with
Facebook Live:

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

I imagine all of us have been to a movie that we would describe as non-stop action. These films are characterized by their relentless pacing and thrilling fight scenes, chases, and explosions. Watching one feels like we are on a roller coaster ride that doesn't let us off until the very end. These movies are best seen on the big screen because there is so much going on that it is difficult to take it all in.

The Apostle Paul knew nothing about non-stop movies, but he certainly knew something about a non-stop faith. In the passage above, Paul tells the church in Thessalonica to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks at all times and places. All of these commands are given as non-stop actions. And just to emphasize the importance of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks, Paul tells us this is the will of God for our lives.

Now I don't know about you all, but I find these non-stop actions to be rather challenging. I mean how do we rejoice in the face of tragedy, war, blatant prejudice, abuse, and starvation? How do we give thanks when our hearts are breaking, our freedoms have been stomped on, and our shortcomings are ever before us? Is Paul living in some kind of "Pollyanna" fantasy world? Given he is in prison awaiting trial, I don't think so.

I think Paul is speaking about the orientation of the heart and mind. We are called to live a life of appreciation and hope rather than one of continual complaint and criticism. There is a certain optimism to our faith, especially if God is the Lord of the universe. And one of the best ways to strengthen that orientation is to act on it; rejoice, pray, give thanks. The truth is there is always something to give thanks for, rejoice in, and to pray for.

These non-stop faith actions have the power to change our outlook on life. When we live a life of appreciation instead of complaining about what we don't have or what's wrong with the world our spirit begins to align with Christ's. Oh this doesn't mean we avoid confronting the world's problems and working towards justice, but we do it with a spirit of hope and trust in the power of Christ which is at work within us.

Perhaps this Thanksgiving holiday could remind us to get in on the non-stop action of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks. Who knows, time spent with our family might just be better than ever. 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 Grilk
Music Director - Matthew Rupcich
Parish Life – Kika Dyson
Session – Rev. Mark Juengel
Personnel – Joe Jauss
Nominating & Clerk of Session – Chris Caruso

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Veterans Day - Acknowledgement

In acknowledgment of Veterans Day, **Wednesday, November 11, 2025**, we would like to thank all our veterans and those currently serving in the armed forces for faithful service.



11/1: Parish Life Meeting
11/8: Deacons Meeting
11/10: 12:15pm - Worship & Music Mtg.
11/12: 9:00am – Finance Mtg.
11/17: 4:00pm - Hawley Forward
11/15: 5:30pm – Mission’s Committee Mtg.
11/24: 12:15pm – Personnel Committee
11/24: 6:00pm – Session Meeting

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Poinsettia Order Forms Coming Soon



If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas we will be taking Poinsettia orders starting **Sunday, November 15th - December 13th**. We are offering 2 sizes - **8” Poinsettia Plant @ \$19.00 or 6” Poinsettia Plant @ \$8.00 each**. Both will be available in Red or White. If you have any questions, please see **Ann Marie Grilk**.

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Annual Reports

The Annual reports are due in the church office by **Wednesday, December 16th**. All committee chairs are required to submit a yearly report. If you have any questions, please contact **Pastor Mark**.

COMMITTEE NEWS

First Responder's Sunday **November 1, 2026**



In recognition of our community first responders, the Music and Worship Committee has set aside a special Sunday. We have invited the Hawley Fire Department as well as other area emergency departments to join us for worship on **November 1st**. During the service we will take time to acknowledge them and have special liturgy and prayers. Thank you to all of those who help us in times of crisis.

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Deacon's Committee



To Honor Carol Cowan **Sunday, November 8th**

On **Sunday, November 8th** during Coffee Hour, we will be honoring Carol Cowan. A Potluck Luncheon has been planned by John Ehlers and the Deacons Committee. If you would like to contribute to the Potluck, please see the Sign-Up sheet located at the Narthex. If you have any questions please see **John Ehlers or any Deacon Committee member**.

Mission Committee



November 15th

The Angel Tree will be available beginning **November 15th**. We will have Ornament tags for the Hawley Head Start & Pike County Children and Youth Services. Anyone interested in participating can select an ornament tag containing the child's age, clothing size, and toy preference and write your name next to the tag number on the Sign-up sheet. Angel tree gifts are to be returned unwrapped in a gift bag with the ornament tag attached. **All gifts must be returned to the church sanctuary on or before December 6th**. Any cash donations received will be used to purchase gift cards for older children/teens. If you have any questions, please see **Michelle Westbrook**.

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Christian Ed **Friendsgiving Meal** **Sunday, November 15th**



On **November 15th** the Christian Education Committee is hosting a special Friendsgiving Meal during Coffee Hour. They are inviting the congregation and others in the community to come and enjoy some baked turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, pie and other goodies. We are looking for a few side dishes to compliment the meal. If you would like to help out or have any questions, please see the Sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex or contact **Jill Juengel**.

COMMITTEE NEWS (Cont'd.)

Stewardship: Love in Action **November 8, 2026**

“Let all that you do, be done I love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Our Stewardship Theme this year is Stewardship: Love in Action. God has entrusted each of us with gifts. Stewardship is how we faithfully use them to love, welcome, serve, and bless others. Stewardship is bigger than money. It is the faithful care of all that has been entrusted to us. Stewardship is a way of life, a life of gratitude and loving action.

On Sunday, November 8th, we will celebrate the sharing of our gifts. We ask that you return your pledge papers by that date. We will collect them during the offering and give thanks for God’s generosity. If you are not able to make that worship service please send your pledges to the church office in care of our financial secretary, **Bill Rockafellow**.

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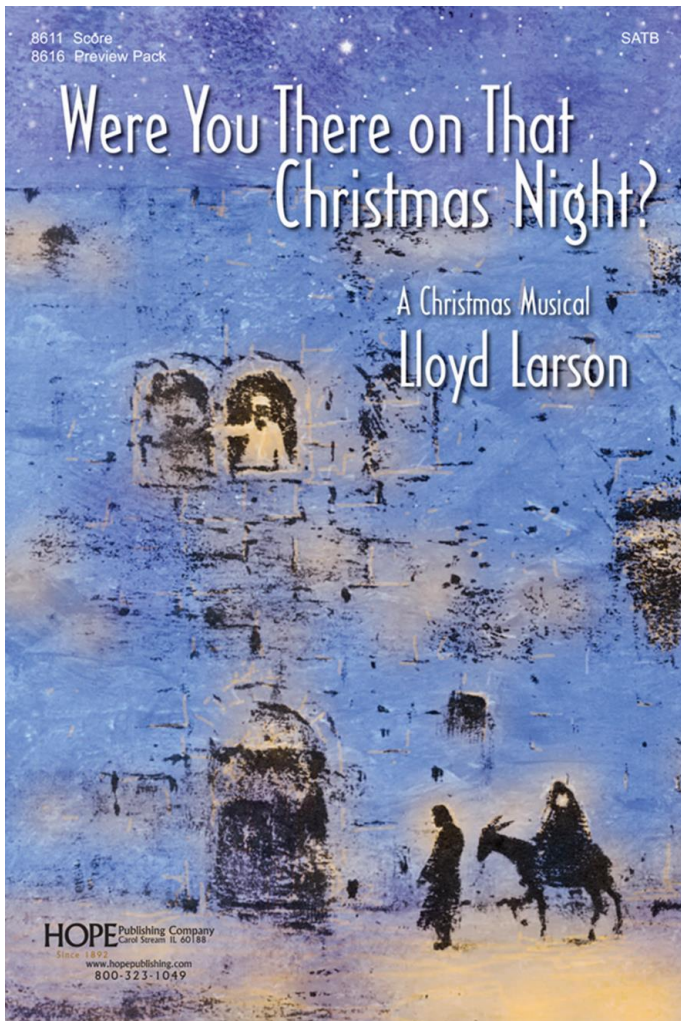
Sunday, November 22nd

The oldest historic practice of the Hanging of the Greens began in Europe. Churches would hang the greens at the conclusion of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, as a means to prepare for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Live greens were typically used when hung just prior to Christmas since they would last throughout the final days of Advent and the 13 days of Christmas Season which concluded at sundown on January 6th.

Evergreens are often understood as a symbol of the eternal coming to dwell among us as Word made flesh. They were described as a sign of life and growth overcoming and flourishing in the midst of the dead of winter, and so of the resurrection of Christ. Over time, other attributes were given to specific evergreens, as we hear in the carol The Holly and the Ivy.

So that we might enjoy the Greens throughout the Advent Season, our congregation decorates the church before Advent begins. On November 22nd, the congregation is invited to come and help us decorate the sanctuary and social hall as we prepare for Christ’s birth. We will begin following the morning worship service and coffee hour. All are welcome to participate!

WORSHIP INFORMATION



Worship & Music

Were You There That Christmas Night? – A Christmas Musical Celebration

Sunday, December 20, 2026, at 10:00am

On **Sunday, December 20th, at 10:00am**, our Chancel Choir will present *Were You There That Christmas Night?*, a beautiful and inspiring Christmas cantata composed by Lloyd Larson, during our morning worship service at First Presbyterian Church of Hawley.

Inspired by Natalie Sleeth's beloved Christmas anthem, this moving musical work invites us to reflect on a simple yet profound question: "*Were you there on that first Christmas night?*" Through scripture, narration, and beautiful choral music, the cantata transports us to Bethlehem, where ordinary people became part of an extraordinary story. From Mary and Joseph to the humble shepherds and visiting Magi, we are reminded that the miracle of Christ's birth was a gift intended for all people.

The Chancel Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra including strings, flute, clarinet, trumpet, and percussion, bringing warmth, richness, and beauty to this musical retelling of the Nativity. Through tender melodies, familiar carols, and joyful expressions of praise, *Were You There That Christmas Night?* celebrates the timeless message of hope, love, and peace that lies at the heart of Christmas.

Come and experience this special service of music and worship as we celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth and discover that, through faith and the enduring power of the Christmas story, we, too, were there on that holy night.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Monthly Hymn Reflection – November 2026

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.

We Gather Together

Those who have visited the Netherlands with its picturesque dikes and windmills may be unaware of the terrific struggle for religious freedom that took place there in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1555, the Low Country was given to King Philip II of Spain by his father, Emperor Charles V of Germany. Philip was an arch-Catholic, but the winds of Calvinistic Reformation had reached the Netherlands. Roman Catholic churches were plundered, and the authority of Spain was resisted.

In 1557, King Philip sent the dreaded Duke of Alba (Fernando Alvarez de Toledo) to bring the Netherlands back into the Pope's fold. He established a reign of terror during which ten thousand people were executed and another forty thousand exiled. His ruling counsel was called the "Council of Troubles," but it's better known to history as the "Blood Council." The bodies of thousands of people were hung in the streets and on the doorposts of houses. Alba didn't hesitate to massacre whole cities. An attack on Leiden was stopped only by cutting the dikes and flooding the country-side.

On January 6, 1579, the Catholic southern regions of the Netherlands (modern Belgium) declared their allegiance to Philip; but three weeks later the northern part (modern Holland) refused to submit to the Catholic rule of Spain. In 1581, Holland declared its independence, led by the courageous William of Orange. Holland was devastated by warfare, and in the process William was cut down by an assassin's dagger. But the brave nation would not be denied, and eventually Spain lost its hold on the Dutch Republic.

This hymn, "We Gather Together," which Americans associate with their Thanksgiving holiday, was actually written sometime in 1597 to celebrate Holland's freedom from Spain. Its author, an unknown Dutchman, was full of thanksgiving that his people were finally free from Spanish tyranny and free to worship as they chose. Notice how he expressed this theme in these three beautiful verses:

*The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing ...
... so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be Thine!*

*We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.*

*Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*

(Then Sings My Soul Book 2; Robert J. Morgan, 2003)

WORSHIP INFORMATION

First Sunday of Advent – November 29

The word “Advent” means a coming into being, a beginning, a new start, an appearance, arrival, and incoming. It is that last synonym that captures my attention. Incoming refers to things that are arriving or approaching. It can describe an incoming call, an incoming shipment or even a person who is starting a new role, such as the incoming CEO. Advent is the celebration of an incoming God, the impact of which changed the world.

We celebrate the Season of Advent every year in preparation for the grand celebration of Christ’s birth. We mark the season by lighting candles, prayer, fasting, and giving to others. All good practices mind you, but let us not forget the impact of that incoming. The Savior was born who continues to impact the world with hope, joy, love and peace. This Advent, may that Savior come in to each and every one of us and make such an impact that we and the world around us would never be the same.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Parish Life
Annual Christmas Dinner
Save The Date
December 15, 2026
At 6:00pm

This year’s Christmas Dinner will be **on Tuesday, December 15th at 6:00pm** and will be held at the church hall and catered by Fiorelli’s. The cost will be **\$15.00/pp**. More information to follow. If you have any questions, please see *Kika Dyson*.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Cont'd.)



2026 Cookie Walk

December 12th 9:00am - 12:30pm



Beginning in late September our congregation begins to hear the words "Cookie Walk" floating around as if everyone knows what a Cookie Walk is. So, this month we'll answer this question "What exactly IS a Cookie Walk?" Each year during the Hawley Winterfest weekend we hold a fundraiser here at the church on Saturday morning from **9:00am to 12:30pm** in our social hall to display almost 10,000 cookies and specialty baked items laid out on trays that are available to the local community who flock to the church and pay \$10 per pound for cookies and \$5 for packages of specialty items. We do the baking, and they do the walking as they make their way along the tables that hold over 35 varieties of cookies and then have a chance to select even more goodies made by our specialty bakers. The Cookie Walk is so popular that we usually sell out early.

This is an event that takes a number of volunteers to achieve the success that we enjoy each year. We are actively seeking bakers who will commit to making 20 dozen of the same type of cookie (we have recipes to choose from) or a set quantity of specialty baked items (we can discuss your ideas as we add new items every year). And on the day of the event, we need on-site volunteers to stand behind the tables to hand out the cookies and volunteers to fill the cookie trays in the back and runners to get them out to the tables. It's busy and fun and there is great camaraderie as we share the joy of the community that loves our cookies and loves the great fellowship of this special morning during the holiday season.

Would you like to help? We'd love to have you join us. Please consider signing up to bake - or to volunteer on **December 12th**. It's a lot of work - yes - but it is also a really satisfying labor of love for our community and for our church.

For more information contact:

Karen Lutz (917-612-8824) or Kika Dyson (570-498-0007)

UPCOMING EVENTS – Cont’d.

Scam Prevention – Saturday, November 14th at 1pm

One of the sad realities of life is the prevalence of fraud and scam schemes. Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable. To help protect yourselves, the Wells Fargo Bank is providing an Awareness seminar at our church on **Saturday, November 14th at 1:00pm.**

Our own *Lauren Piccotti* and *Lynn Graham*, Managers at the local Wells Fargo Bank locations in Hawley and Milford will be the day’s presenters.

We will be discussing Fraud and Scam solutions and what you need to know and watch out for. We will also be chatting about Elder Abuse and how scams relate directly to this as well. We will have an open discussion for those who have experienced any scam or have questions. The scam types that are most prevalent right now are as follows:

Tech Support Scams — This scam involves individuals posing as a well-known or trusted technology, software, or anti-virus company. The scammer may claim that your device has been used in a crime, is infected with a virus, or that you’ve made an unexpected payment and they want to return your money.

Government Scams (IRS/Medicare) - Scammers pose as government officials requiring their victims to wire cash, use cryptocurrency, or use prepaid debit or gift cards to pay a bogus tax bill. Or they may provide sham Medicare services at makeshift mobile clinics in order to bill the insurance and pocket the money.

Family Scams — Fraudsters play to the emotions of family members by identifying themselves as grandchildren calling about an emergency situation. They may say, “I’ve been arrested and need money wired quickly,” or “I need cash cards for bail.” They may even use Artificial Intelligence to mimic a loved one’s voice.

Prize & Sweepstakes Scams — Under the guise of a telemarketing call to notify the winner of a lottery or sweepstakes, the victim is told they must pay taxes on the jackpot in person, by mail or wire before they can claim their prize.

Romance Scams —With the false promise of love and companionship, a person is conned into trusting a new “friend” they meet through social media, dating apps, or even in person. The romantic partner then swindles them out of money and/or property before disappearing.

Scammers make billions of dollars a year. You may prevent yourself or a loved one from being a victim. Come join us. Please sign up in the Narthex. If you have a question, please see *Lauren Piccotti or Pastor Mark.*

UPCOMING EVENTS – Cont'd.



**Lori's Corner Kitchen in Hamlin.
630 Hamlin Hwy., Lake Ariel, PA 18436**

**Wednesday, November 4th
8:00am**

Attention all men of the Church. We are organizing a Men's Breakfast for fellowship and a good meal in November. This will be a time to relax and enjoy one another's company. If you like the occasion, we can plan for further get togethers. You can invite a friend. If you have further questions, see Joe Jauss or Pastor Mark. Sign Up Sheet – please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex table. We need to let the restaurant know how many are coming so they can prepare it for us.

- **When:** Wednesday, November 4
- **Time:** 8:00 AM
- **Cost:** That is up to you - How many pancakes do you need? *Cash Only*

Place: Lori's Corner Kitchen in Hamlin. 630 Hamlin Hwy, Lake Ariel, PA 18436..

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS – NOVEMBER

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*.

November - Coffee Hour

11/1: Virginia Romain/
Sherry Milliken/
Sue Goldbach & the
M&M Girls
11/8: Deacon's
(*Carol Cowan's Luncheon*)
11/15: Christian Ed
Friendsgiving
11/22: Worship & Music
Hanging of the Greens
11/29: TBD

November - Flower Donations

11/4: TBD
11/11: TBD
11/18: TBD
11/25: TBD

November Good News Café

11/14: Good News Café Girls
11/28: TBD

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS – NOVEMBER

(Cont'd.)

November - Liturgists

11/1: Grace Laird
11/8: Patrick Field
11/15: Kathy Smith
11/22: TBD
1/29: TBD

November - Ushers

11/1: Jill Juengel
11/8z: TBD
11/15: Alesia Burton
11/22: TBD
11/29: TBD

November - Communion **(November 8th)**

Set Up & Clean Up:

Jessica Cumberland

Servers: Jessica Cumberland

Jim Mould

Nancy Vignau

Lynn Stack

Kathleen Roberts

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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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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The Book Club meeting is on **Friday, November 20th**. The **November** Book is --- *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by *Shelby Van Pelt (Jane & Sherry)*. If you would like to know more about our Book Club, please contact **Melanie Tek-Visgilio**.

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.

CHURCH LIFE – Cont'd.

Good News Café

The Good News Café will be on **November 14th** . The **Due to the upcoming the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, Good News Café will be cancelled on November 28th** and all of December. The Café will resume on **January 10, 2027**. 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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11/7: James & Barbara "Kika" Dyson
11/18: Joe & Jane Jauss
11/28: Stan & Patricia Bartleson



December Newsletter

Our next Newsletter will be in **November 2026**. Articles for our next monthly Newsletter need to be in the office by **Wednesday, November 18th**. *The Newsletter will go to print on the last Thursday of each month. Any articles submitted after will go on the following month's Newsletter.*

Office Hours

*Monday–Thursday
8:00am–1:00pm*

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th in observance of Thanksgiving.

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11/2: Tristan Protzman
11/3: Annie James
11/12: Barbara "Kika" Dyson
11/13: Tom Kulesza
11/15: James Brewington
11/18: Sherry Milliken
11/25: Elizabeth Crowley
11/30: John Kiesendahl

COMMUNITY EVENTS



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

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The Lion's Club

The Lion's Club will be meeting **Thursday, November 19th**. For more information, please contact **Pat Bartleson**.

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The Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild



The Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild **November meeting** will meet in Blough Hall on **November 16th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.** 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



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Saving Time, ENDS (Move Clocks Back) All Saints Day 1st Responders Sunday 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship 11am: Coffee Hr. Parish Life Mtg.	11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir	8am: Men's Breakfast Lori's Corner Kitchen, 630 Hamlin Hwy. Lake Ariel 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	11am: Bible Study	Diwali	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Communion Sunday Consecration Sunday 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship Carol Cowan's Potluck Luncheon Deacon's Mtg.	11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 12:15: Worship & Music Mtg	Veteran's Day 12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	9am: Finance Mtg. 11am: Bible Study		11:30am-1pm: Good News Café 1pm Scam Prevention Seminar (Wells Fargo Bank)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Hunger & Homelessness Sunday Friendsgiving 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship Missions Mtg.	11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA 2-6pm: WH Quilters	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 4pm: Hawley Forward	12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp.	11am: Bible Study 5:30pm-8pm: Lion's Club	1pm: Book Club	Rod Warner Wedding
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Hanging of the Greens 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship	11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA	10am: Handbell Choir 11am: Chancel Choir 12:15pm: Personnel Mtg. 6:00pm: Session Mtg.	12pm: AA 5-8pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: Prayer Grp. <i>(Maybe Cancelled)</i>	Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)  11am: Bible Study (Cancelled)		11:30am-1pm: Good News Café
29	30	 				
First Sunday of Advent 9am: Chancel Choir Reh. 10am: Worship	11am: M&M Grp. Mtg. 12pm: AA					