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PASTOR'S COLUMN

REV. DR. ROBERT COOK *Interim Pastor*

The writer, Sarah Ban Breathnach tells of a business trip her husband took to the beach, where she and her daughter enjoyed the mornings while he attended workshops. One afternoon it was announced that there would be elephant rides for the children in the hotel parking lot. Her daughter, Katie, was delirious with excitement. Sarah told her, "Life is always full of wonderful surprises if we're open to them. Some mornings you get up not knowing what will happen, and you get to ride an elephant that day!"

When they got home, there was an invitation for Sarah to join a group of journalists on a trip to Ireland. She was tired of traveling, and not really a spontaneous person, so she told them she would probably not go. Her husband, overhearing her, said, "So, you're not going to ride the elephant?" She decided to go.

Being open in a world that has closed itself off to kindness, compassion and self-giving service, is becoming increasingly difficult. Frankly, its just getting to be scary "out there." But this is not the time to shut ourselves out from the world around us. Instead, this is a time to trust God to direct us each day in this adventure of faith.

I'm not naïve about the happenings around us. They demonstrate what society is like when character, manners, decency and above all, walking in the way of Jesus have been forgotten—or never tried. What history

demonstrates is that those who believe the iron rule of society is power, force and violence will find themselves consumed and destroyed by such values. Many of us lived many decades in the 20th century. The wars that the depravity of just a few people started killed millions including those who planned these wars. Those who used their skills and talent for evil were consumed by the evil themselves. Force, power and violence don't win. They just destroy everything.

But there are so many, many people who live to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. And they repair and rebuild and redeem lives, families, communities and nations. And they tend to live with a sense of expectancy and trust. That gives such folks the attitude that each day is good. That God is guiding and that the unexpected may just be a great blessing. These are folks who believe that you just might wake up some morning and have the joyous pleasure of riding an elephant. God has wonderful surprises if we are just open to trust God for them.

St Paul, writing to the churches in Galatia said: ***"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."*** (Gal 6:9 -New Living Translation) Despite the bad news, the anger and the bullying and the desperate struggles across this old world, we don't give up. Instead, we expect that every day God can use our hands or words, or eyes or heart to bless and bring light and grace and healing to someone. Just be open and expectant for God to use you.

Our daily part then is to do no harm; to do all the good we can all the time we can to all the people we meet; and to stay in love with God That sets us up for a great adventure in practical faith! And you just never know what good can come in even the smallest of ways. So, I live in faith and God is guiding me, and if it shows up today, I'm ready to ride an elephant! I hope you are ready too! Stay faithful; stay hopeful.

– Pastor Robert Cook



GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM FOOD PANTRY

717-597-8333 ext. 2 • gafoodpantry@gmail.com

Call or email to schedule a time
to drop off the food donations.

Thursday, February 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, February 11 & 18 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

CURRENT FOOD NEEDS

CEREAL PASTA SAUCE IN CANS OR PLASTIC

RICE MIXES PASTA MIXES

BAKED BEANS CANNED FRUIT

Any non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE FOOD PANTRY!

CLERK'S REPORT

JENNIFER ROBERTSON *Clerk of Session*

GPC held the REGULAR SESSION MEETING on Thursday, December 11, 2025 in the Social Room beginning at 6:30 pm. The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle. Ruling Elder JoAnne Lewis offered a devotion and Pastor Bob offered a prayer.

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Mary Ann Ackerman, Anne Larew, JoAnne Lewis, Carole Malin, Racheal Marconi Bowman, Dee Patton, Phil Pearce, Jenn Robertson **Clerk:** Jenn Robertson
The **Moderator** was Pastor Robert Cook.

Session welcomed Ed Wine to the Session Meeting, per his request, to provide an update about the proposed land swap between the Moss Spring Cemetery and the Greencastle Area Franklin Country Water Authority (GAFCWA).

Moss Spring Graveyard Association: Approved the Joint Meeting of the Moss Spring Graveyard Association and Session to begin at 6:35 pm. Ed provided an update on Greencastle Presbyterian Church's property ownership of the cemetery, property deed and the proposed land swap between the Church and the GAFCWA. Session agreed with the work completed and the work Ed anticipates in the coming six months. The Session extended its gratitude to Ed for his extensive property records research and continuing work with the GAFCWA. Approved the closure of the Joint Meeting and return to the Regular Session Meeting at 6:48 pm.

Clerk's Report: ACTIONS: Approved minutes of November 11, 2025 Regular Session meeting. Church Roll through November 30, 2025 is 147. Worship attendance on December 7, 2025 was 98 with Communion celebrated by 91 and 24 joining via livestream. Per Capita giving to date is 41% of total membership. Stewardship Drive – 140 sent, 4 undeliverable with 33 replies to date.

ACTION: Approved Clerk's Report.

Virtual Motions: Approved Memorial Service for Michael Robinson on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 6:00 pm with a reception following the service.

Financial Report

November 2025

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$18,718.18 |
| Receipts | \$36,483.00 |
| Disbursements | \$23,862.06 |
| Ending Balance..... | \$31,339.12 |

ACTION. Approved the Nov 2025 Financial Report.

Worship: ACTIONS: Approved Christmas Joy Offering collection. Approved the participation of Dottie Davison and Kelsey Marshall in the 3-year refresher program "201 Communion Training" in 2026. Approved the Annual Church Picnic to be held on September 20, 2026 at Antrim Township Park, 12315 Grant Shook Drive, Greencastle. Approved the following dates for Communion in 2026: January 11, February 1, March 1, April 2 (Maundy Thursday) and 5 (Easter), May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6 and 24 (Christmas Eve).

Christian Education: ACTION: Approved tabling discussions on Youth Group Leader position.

Finance: ACTION: Approved the 2026 Draft Budget prepared and recommended by Finance Committee.

Nominating Committee: ACTION: Approved Ruling Elder Mary Ann Ackerman to serve as Moderator for the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Personnel: ACTIONS: Approved \$1,575.00 for employee Christmas bonuses. Approved Office Manager's vacation from January 26, 2026 through February 9, 2026.

Property and Maintenance: ACTION: Approved \$200.00 donation to the Rescue Hose Company Number 1.

Pastor's Report: Posting a daily devotion on Facebook, officiated over 47 funerals/memorial services to date in 2025.

Old Business: ACTION: Completed review of Church Roll and determined members to be encouraged via letter to become active members.

New Business: ACTION: Approved Annual Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Bob and with The Lord's Prayer in unison at 8:38 pm.

BOARD OF DEACONS

DEBRA MILLER || **BEN HERRMANN** *Co-moderators*

The Board of Deacons met January 15, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Edwards Room.

We prayerfully reflect on these highlights from this past month:

- Connecting with those in our care cells by word, cards, and deeds.
- Diligence of our prayer ministry.
- Mailing grief materials that may offer comfort to families during their time of bereavement.
- Presenting Chancel flowers to members, January 11, 2026. One bouquet was given to David Rutherford and Carole Malin who were celebrating an anniversary and one bouquet was given to Fred Davison, to show our appreciation for special 2025 Christmas music.
- Deacons, Care Cell #2, along with Special Events hosted Coffee and Fellowship on January 18, 2026. We celebrated Sally Snyder's 98th birthday. Care Cell #1 will host Coffee and Fellowship in February.
- Deacons purchased six (6) restaurant gift cards to be used, if needed, for Care Meals for members.
- Deacons are praying for our 2026 Nominating Committee. We are asking prayers to empower those who have the gifts to accept the call to serve through leadership and care.
- Deacons 2025 Annual Report is in progress. Report due February 20, 2026.

We look forward to serving by:

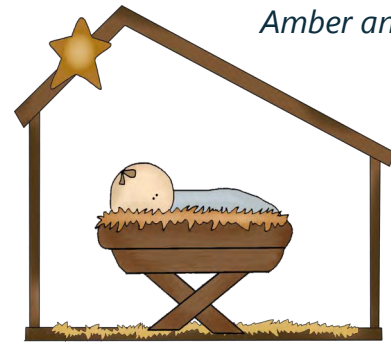
- Offering home communion to our shut-ins. Deacons will be coordinating with Pastor Cook.
- Hosting Coffee and Fellowship and presenting "love gifts" in February.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 5:30pm.

We encourage you to contact your Deacon to share your thoughts, concerns, and ways we can serve you as well as reporting any change of address, phone numbers, and email addresses. We ask for your prayers as we serve GPC.



Matt Kerstetter with a protective arm around Kelly holding their first grandchild, Tucker, son of Amber and Jonathan.



Dear GPC,
Thank you for the beautiful rose you put in the Sanctuary in honor of Erik's birth. What a thoughtful gesture.
We are grateful for the love and support GPC has offered us over the years. GPC holds a special place in our hearts.
With Gratitude,
Elizabeth (Wine) + Mark Paddrik

OUTREACH / MISSION

MARY ANN ACKERMAN *Moderator*

POLLY COULTER *Mission Committee Chair*

Your Mission Committee discussed at our last meeting that we really want to focus on transparency and partnership throughout 2026. We want to be the best stewards of your generous donations that support the many agencies and missions year over year. To that end, we decided to focus on some of those of agencies each month and how much of our budget goes to support their mission each year. We do hope this will help to remind you how much your partnership and support means and how important it is in supporting these very important missions whether their reach is local, regional, national or global.

Franklin County Homeless Shelter

\$1200/annually donated

223 South Main Street
Chambersburg, PA - 17201
717-267-3669

[Go to Website](https://www.sccap.org/homeless-services)

(<https://www.sccap.org/homeless-services>)

Emergency shelter programs for single men, women, and families. The shelter is a component program of SCCAP and consists of programming that is intended to help the shelter clients work towards self-sufficiency. Programs Include: intensive case management, a comprehensive life skills program, budgeting, and parent/child enrichment. Clients are required to actively participate, work with staff, and achieve their goals.



Pregnancy Ministries, Inc.

\$500/annually donated

245 South Potomac Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-655-5603

[Go to Website](https://pregnancyministries.org/)

<https://pregnancyministries.org/>

Free Pregnancy Testing

If a woman has had a positive home pregnancy test or is experiencing any of the common signs of pregnancy, she may be asking, "Am I pregnant?"



Free Ultrasound Scans

An ultrasound scan can be scheduled to confirm a viable uterine pregnancy.

Free Pregnancy Options Education

We know that each set of circumstances is unique. Our desire is for everyone to leave our centers feeling supported, un-judged, and informed, able to make a personal decision.



Free Parenting Education

"Earn While You Learn" and "Hey Dad!" programs educate parents on prenatal care, infant care, and parenting. These programs also help with needed baby supplies.

Infant Supplies

We offer free resources to our clients where they can get help with needed infant supplies.

Free Sexually Transmitted Infection Education

STI Education for women and men who want the best optimal sexual health.

MUSIC MINISTRY

DR. J. FREDERICK DAVISON

Director of Music Ministries

I hope that your days were "merry and bright" this past Christmas season.

I want to thank all the musicians who participated in our worship during the Advent and Christmas season. We are fortunate to have such talented members and friends who are willing to share their gifts with us - members of the Chancel Choir, the

Bell Choir, the Brass Trio, solo vocalists and instrumentalists, and our talented organists and pianists.

After this season of anticipation and joyful celebration of our Savior's birth, we soon will enter a time where Christians focus on the life and sacrifice of our Savior culminating in his glorious resurrection. It is my hope that the music offered during this time will help each of us reflect on the teachings of Jesus, what he offers us if we will follow him, and how the Spirit dwells within us.



GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD, WE SURRENDER ALL WORRIES AND CONCERNS TO YOU, KNOWING THAT WE ARE YOUR BELOVED CHILDREN. OUR FAITH COMPELS THAT WE REST IN YOUR INFINITE MERCIES.

June Marshall health concerns

Patti Sechrist health concerns (*Marcie Tinninis*)

Alan Shope health concerns

Tim Walck health concerns

Mindy Grosh health concerns (*Dick & Donna Grosh's daughter-in-law*)

Michael Paylor complications from leg amputation (*cousin of Weslie Johnson*)

Kathy Kendall health concerns (*Weslie Johnson*)

Dan Patton health concerns

Bethany Yeager missionary work in South America (*Scott Peterson & Candace Rutherford*)

Penny Mohler battling ovarian cancer (*Nancylee Moore*)

Cathy Thomas health concerns (*Beth Taylor's mother / submitted by Sheila Gates*)

Sue Lum, recovering from broken kneecap (*Fred Davison's sister*)

Frank & Tracey Toston health concerns (*Scott Peterson*)

Sally Snyder health concerns

Chelsea White diagnosed with breast cancer, mother of young twins (*Emily Johnson*)

Lynne Leap moderate dementia (*Barry Leap's mother*)

Gail Guyton diagnosed with brain tumor (*Diane Mills*)

Marvin & Nancy Rice health concerns (*Linda Thomas*)

David Myers health concerns (*Sue Myers*)

Kenny Reed cancer diagnosis

Todd Smith health concerns (*Marcie & Chuck Tinninis*)

John Stanton brain cancer (*co-worker of Scott Peterson*)

Leslie Moose (*Patsy Lee*)

Donna Bingaman health concerns (*Margery Benson*)

Jason Kinzer health concerns (*Deb Shank*)

Emmie White health concerns (*Jan Epplenman*)

Terri Brust health concerns (*Deb Shank*)

Helen Taulbee health concerns (*Polly Coulter's sister*)

Bonnie Speaks health concerns

Cindy Widder health concerns (*Cindy Marconi*)

Donna & Sarah Stillwagon health concerns (*Barry Leap's family*)

Carla Vickers cancer/mastectomy (*Barry & Beverly Leap*)

Kevin Taulbee health concerns (*Polly Coulter's nephew*)

Brandon Fisher health concerns

Jan Epplenman health concerns

Cora Crider health concerns

Kim Tartaglia knee replacement

Bill Heacox health concerns (*Brian Rice*)

Dave Wilson health concerns

Amanda Lain

Pat Grimes injury from a fall (*Sue Miller*)



- 6 Dick Bell
- 9 Kim Morrison
- 9 **Mike & Kim Morrison (46)**
- 11 **Fred & Debbie Young (31)**
- 18 Barbara Larew Adams
- 18 Carole Malin
- 19 Kathryn Greene
- 19 Dot Wilson
- 21 **Bill & Kathryn Greene (18)**
- 22 Cindy Marconi
- 23 Stanley Bowser
- 24 **Max & Louise Houck (64)**
- 26 Reba Jones
- 27 Bill Greene



Why is Per Capita Important?

Per capita provides the Office of the General Assembly with the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

The 2026 Per Capita assessment includes
 \$11.26 for the General Assembly
 \$2.40 for the Synod of the Trinity
 \$21.00 for the Presbytery of Carlisle.

TOTAL PER MEMBER \$34.66

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

In their account of this event, the synoptic gospels offer an enlightening tableau vivant, with Christ flanked by Moses, representing the law, and Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition. With this vivid image, the gospel writers demonstrate the relationship of the human Word of God to the tradition of Israel and set forth the hermeneutic by which they read the Hebrew Scriptures.



Hope of the ages

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 148-149)

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2026

Sun February 1

Worship 10:00am with Communion

followed by Coffee Fellowship
1st Sunday Food Drive
Congregational Potluck Supper 5:30pm
Followed by Card Making Party

Tue February 3

CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30pm
WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30pm

Wed February 4

Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:00pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur February 5

Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 6:00pm

Sun February 8

Souper Bowl of Caring

Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship
Youth Group 5:30am

Tue February 10

MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30pm

Wed February 11

Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 9:00am
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:00pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur February 12

PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS GROUP 1:00pm
SESSION MEETING 6:30pm

Hold these dates:

Annual Congregational Meeting
April 12, 2026

Picnic in the Park
September 20, 2026

Sun February 15

Transfiguration of the Lord

Souper Bowl of Caring

Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship
Dementia Caregivers 2:00pm

Wed February 18 ASH WEDNESDAY

Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 9:00am
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am

Ashes-To-Go 12:00 noon

No Bell Choir rehearsal
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal resumes 7:45pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur February 19

DEACONS MEETING 6:30pm

Sun February 22

Youth Sunday

Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship
Youth Group 5:30am

Wed February 25

Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:00pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm



Liturgists and Communion Servers

February 1 JoAnne Lewis

Communion servers are
Polly Coulter, Ben Herrmann,
Anne Larew, Marcie Tinninis

February 8 Anne Larew
Preaching – Rev. Scott Bowerman

February 15 Patti Divelbiss

February 22 Pamela Price