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PASTOR'S COLUMN

REV. DR. ROBERT COOK *Interim Pastor*

Dear Friends,

In the book of Ecclesiastes, we find these words in the third chapter:
To everything there's a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

As of September 15, I will retire from fulltime pastoral ministry after nearly 48 years. I have had a good career and have had the privilege of serving 11 congregations. The capstone of my career has been my seven years here at Greencastle Presbyterian.

During the seven years we've had many experiences. Who could know as I started in September 2019 that I would be here seven years as an Interim! That in itself is remarkable. Who could tell as 2020 opened that by March of that year we would be in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. We pivoted to adapt and care for the congregation and we got through it. Along the way, there have been baptisms and weddings, new members added, funerals and dinners and fellowship times after Sunday services. Christmas Eve services which have been very special. Easter Sunday morning services with the youth group leading worship. Seven years of day camp that have been amazing. A food pantry staffed by so many volunteers not only from GPC but many congregations that have been the difference between many people eating and not eating.

Along the way, we have laughed and cried, and we have more than thrived -and we have danced. You've been very kind to me and my family when

we had to place my wife Shirley into God's arms. I will always gratefully remember your kindness.

We replaced stained glass windows with newly retrofitted ones. We replaced cushions and covers in the sanctuary. Painted a few rooms. Paved the parking lot. We began an online ministry that reaches many people each Sunday. We have welcomed a lot of youngsters to sit together for children's time with their Pastor. We survived snow storms, and we've spent Sundays in hot sunny weather with lemonade on the lawn. We've done angel tree breakfasts, and many Thanksgiving dinners for the community. This has been an amazing seven years for all of us.

I've been so privileged to moderate a very fine Session with many very dedicated Elders all these years. I've been so privileged to work together with the Deacons, whose commitment and love for the people of this church and community continue to inspire me. It has been an exceptional privilege to work with Dr. Fred Davison in these years. His leadership has made an inestimable difference in our worship times. Also, it has been a true privilege to work together with Susan Miller our very able Office Manager.

So many things that have happened in so many ways to share the love of Jesus together and beyond our Church doors. Many new faces have come to join us, together with their gifts and graces as a part of this blest faith community.

Through it all we have bonded and we have grown. We have experienced the grace of God and a lot of love and a lot of joy. I've tried to do my best as your Pastor, and I've always believed that God wanted to do something with this congregation. To God be the glory.

Pastors are called to particular places for particular times and particular purposes. That has been the case here in our ministry together. We have accomplished much. There is much to be accomplished. I hope that I have served you well, and in a way that has prepared you for your next Pastor. I have prayed for you, and for that Pastor yet to come every Saturday for the last seven years. I hope I have strengthened your connection with Christ through my years as your Pastor.

I have hoped that the new Pastor would be chosen before I retired, and I could pass the baton to that person. But this new Pastor will come in God's time. So, I'm passing the baton on to all of you, asking that you would continue to fight the good fight, to keep the faith, to run your race with faith and patience looking to Jesus. Be open to the gifts that the Holy Spirit will give you in this time. Let us both have the courage to move on, knowing that God's spirit will guide us. This congregation has been around a long time since 1737. I don't believe that God is done with you yet—or with me! The best is yet to be.

I know that I will carry all of you in my heart for all the days that God will give me. May you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, Trusting God with your heart and mind and body and soul doing everything you do for the glory of God. What a great privilege it has been for me to serve you. I will always thank God for you!

Pastor Robert Cook
Greencastle Presbyterian Church
Interim Pastor

Greencastle Presbyterian church,
Thank you so much for opening the
doors of your church to me and
allowing me to share with the
congregation. It was such a sweet
time, and everyone I spoke with
has such a loving and caring heart.
Thank you for extending the invitation
and for supporting me with your
gift.

Blessings,

Bethany Yeager

*GPC recently made a donation to Bethany Yeager,
representative of Foursquare Missions Int.*

OUTREACH / MISSION

MARY ANN ACKERMAN *Ruling Elder*

POLLY COULTER *Mission Committee Chair*

The Laurel Mission Team/Mission Committee wants to thank the church for your ongoing support to our mission efforts to Laurel Mission in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. We teamed with Prince Street UB from Shippensburg, PA and Cornerstone Church, Greencastle, PA to accomplish all of our hard work for the week.

To summarize our week, the team provided a new shingle roof for a veteran's family. We finished drywall, installed shiplap, and finished details for a widow and her adult grandson. We dug a footer for a new home project. We gave tons of food to local families. Our own, Deb Young led an Artist Paint Night for the Laurel Youth Group. And lastly, we installed kitchen cabinets at the

Cedar Chapel Church on Laurel Mission campus. So much completed!

As you can see, the Mission team was a busy bunch and happily completed a lot of work in a short amount of time. You will hear more great details and stories in our presentation to the church at a later date. The Mission Committee wanted to give you an idea of some of the services completed as we were doing the work of God for the good people of Kentucky.



CLERK'S REPORT

JENNIFER ROBERTSON *Clerk of Session*

JOINT MEETING FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS

June 11, 2026 in the Social Room at 5:40 p.m.

Moderator Pastor Bob opened the evening's events with a devotion and prayer for our meal and meeting.

The lighting of the candle took place.

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Mary Ann Ackerman, Dottie Davison, Ben Herrmann, Anne Larew, Carole Malin, Jim Papa, Dee Patton, George Price, Jenn Robertson

ABSENT: Racheal Marconi Bowman

CLERK: Jenn Robertson

DEACONS PRESENT: Polly Coulter, Sheila Gates, Kelly Kerstetter, Beverly Leap, Debra Miller, Brian Rice, Sue Thompson

ABSENT: Candace Rutherford, Virginia Vallillo

Boundary Training Certificates of Completion were presented to Kelly Kerstetter, Dottie Davison and Sheila Gates. (George Price completed the training today.)

Extended deep gratitude to our departing Deacons and Ruling Elders for their dedicated service:

Board of Deacons – Ben Herrmann and Candace Rutherford. Session – Racheal Marconi Bowman and Anne Larew.

DINING SUPPORT: Ruling Elders Mary Ann Ackerman, Anne Larew and Dee Paton served a light evening meal of shredded chicken, shredded pork, rolls, potato salad, fruit salad, brownies, cookies and various beverages. Many thanks for this time of Christian Fellowship.

JOINT DEACONS AND ELDERS MEETING

Pastor Bob opened the Joint Meeting in prayer. Pastor invited each Board Member to identify themselves to the group and to provide a brief intro-

ductory statement. There are currently 39 churches in our Presbytery. Pastor provided a brief historical overview of John Knox and John Calvin and their impact on the Presbyterian denomination. In addition, he provided a brief overview of the roles of Teaching Elders, Deacons and Elders.

This meeting adjourned in prayer at 6:30 pm.

GREENCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION MEETING

June 11, 2025 in the Social Room at 6:30 pm

Meeting previously opened in prayer, with candle remaining lit.

Additions and deletions to the docket were presented and approved by consensus.

CLERK'S REPORT: ACTION. Approved minutes of the April 12, 2026 Called Annual Congregational Meeting and minutes of the May 14, 2026 Regular Session Meeting.

Church Roll through May 31, 2026 is 131.

Worship attendance on Sunday, June 7, 2026, was 97; with Communion celebrated by 95 and 22 joining via livestream.

Signed certification prepared by Ed Wine for the Tax Appeal application for the Moss Spring land giving him permission to handle for GPC.

ACTION. Approved Clerk's Report.

Financial Report

May

Beginning Balance.....	\$12,353.57
Receipts.....	\$21,510.70
Disbursements.....	\$20,433.46
Ending Balance.....	\$13,430.81

ACTION. Approved May 2026 Financial Report.

NOTE: To date, 48 members have contributed to the Annual Per Capita Campaign.

Personnel: Wrote Position Description for Christian Education Coordinator. Completed reference checks for Christian Education Coordinator.

ACTIONS: Approved employing Diane Mills as Christian Education Coordinator effective

July 25, 2026. Approved, with gratitude, the resignation of Keri Papa as Community Day Camp Director; notice received just prior to this meeting.

Property and Maintenance: ACTION: Approved completing kitchen renovations by Doug Wilson, with funding source to be determined, not to exceed \$3,500.

Mission: ACTION: Approved the Mission Committee remaining as a Committee of the Church, with a reporting relationship to the Ruling Elder for Outreach. Outreach remains a Committee of the Session.

Outreach: ACTIONS: Approved the use of the parking lot at 36 South Jefferson Street for vendors participating in Sidewalk Sale Days on July 10-11, 2026. This would be for the vendors participating in the event to park their personal vehicles during the two-day event. Vendors would be informed this is not for overnight parking, or long-term parking for any trailers. Approved the placement of two portable toilets in the church parking lot, at the back of the 36 South Jefferson Street lot near the corner of Spruce Lane, as has been done in the past. The anticipated date of delivery for these toilets would be Thursday, July 9, with pick-up on Monday, July 13. Approved the use of the grass area on the eastern side of the church near the Baltimore Street gate entrance to provide shade for use by "Shane the Balloon Guy" (balloon twister) for two hours on Friday evening July 10, and Saturday morning, July 11 (keeping the entrance and exit to the Social Room open).

Pastor's Report: Pastor continues to officiate funeral and memorial services and lead the Bible Study on Revelations.

ACTIONS: Humbly accepted Pastor Bob's resignation effective August 31, 2026. Extended extreme thankfulness to him for his shepherding this GPC flock for the past seven (7) years,

New Business: Session meeting dates:

ACTION. Agreed to hold Regular Session Meetings in the Edwards Room on August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10 with all beginning at 5:30 pm; volunteers for Devotions and Prayers received.

Committees and Responsible Ruling Elders:

- **Christian Education** – Ben Herrmann
- **Finance** – Liaison continues to be Clerk of Session, Jenn Robertson
- **Nominating Committee** – To Be Determined
- **Outreach and Mission** – Mary Ann Ackerman
- **Special Events Committee** – Dee Patton
- **Personnel** – George Price
- **Property and Maintenance** – Carole Malin
- **Technology** – Jim Papa
- **Worship** – Dottie Davison
- **Clerk of Session** – Jenn Robertson

Ruling Elders provided with Information Manuals for their areas of responsibilities.

The meeting was closed in prayer by the Moderator and The Lord's Prayer in unison at 8:00 PM.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for U. S. Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice **Brady Papa** throughout his bootcamp. Please continue to pray for his safety.

–The Papa Family



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BEN HERRMANN *Ruling Elder*

As we wrap up summer and move closer to the autumn equinox, consider participating in this game of Christian Education BINGO. There is no time limit, and everyone wins through your investment in our programs and one another. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* – Matthew 5:8

B	I	N	G	O
Ask one of our Pre-K through Grade 5 kids, “What was your favorite part of Children’s Church?”	Ask Diane about any help that is needed with the painting project for the Rogers and Warner rooms.	Speak to Colleen about making a meal that the Youth Group teens would enjoy during one of their meetings.	Talk to Erin about your interest in a Bible Study opportunity this fall before worship services.	<i>Proverbs 18:15</i> An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
Talk to a friend with a Pre-K – Grade 5 student about joining your family at our Sep. 20 Church Picnic	Invite friends to mark their calendar for our October 11 Faithful Families event: Halloween Party	Share with one of our YG members your favorite memory of your spiritual journey, and ask about theirs.	Share your favorite verse with one of our youth and ask them to discover their to empower them.	<i>Proverbs 16:16</i> How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
Ask Diane if she needs anything for her Children’s Church Scavenger Hunt.	Ask elementary students what their favorite school memory is so far.	Ask our teens what their favorite activity has been since school started.	Talk to our kids and put a date on your calendar to support their interests.	<i>Psalms 119:105</i> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Check with Diane about what clearances you need to be up to date for volunteering with our children.	Write a card to one of our youth describing a positive action noticed during worship affirming their effort.	Check with Colleen about what forms are needed for volunteering to drive off site with our youth.	Ask the Coffee and Fellowship volunteers if they would like any kid-friendly drinks to be donated.	<i>Isaiah 1:17</i> Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.
Wish a happy September birthday our middle schooler who attends Youth Group.	Ask Diane if she needs any supplies donated to support the Faith Families program.	Wish a happy September birthday our high schooler who attends Youth Group.	Seek out our college students and those serving our country to let them know they are loved.	<i>Luke 1:37</i> For nothing will be impossible with God.



GPC churchpicnic

Sunday, September 20, 2026

10:00 am

Antrim Township Park

12315 Grant Shook Rd

Greencastle, PA 17225

Please bring a dish to share.

Chicken, drinks, & paper products
will be provided.

Restrooms are
available.

*You may wish to bring along your own lawn chair
and your friends!*



GREENCASTLE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Faith, Fun & Fellowship

MUSIC MINISTRY

DR. J. FREDERICK DAVISON *Director*

A New Season Begins

The GPC Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will begin the 2026-2027 season after Labor Day. The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm starting September 9, for approximately an hour rehearsal. The Bell Choir will meet a few weeks later, also on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45 pm starting September 23.

While the Chancel and Bell Choirs took a break for the summer, we were blessed to have a variety of guest artists share their gifts with us at GPC. They included Cumberland Valley School of Music students Robert Bond, LilLee Everett, Libbi Brewer, and Gavin and Keegan Parris. In addition, we were fortunate to have CVSM voice instructor Seth Shield and well known Greencastle resident David Besecker share their vocal talents with us. A special treat was having Joyce Hopkins and the other members of the recorder ensemble The Washington County Consort leading us in worship. Last, but not least, were our own members Brian Keck, Kaylynn Leap, Barry Leap, Liam Papa, and Allan and Dot Wilson who enhanced our worship experience.

Although I look forward to the coming season, it will be sad to see my friend and our long-term Interim Pastor Bob Cook retire in September. The Bell and Chancel Choirs will participate in Pastor Cook's last Sunday service as our Pastor on September 13.

It is our desire to give those with musical gifts an opportunity to participate in leading worship at GPC. Therefore, I extend a sincere invitation to you to contact me at jfdavison50@gmail.com or text at 626-590-4221 if you have an interest in singing in the Chancel Choir, ringing in the Bell Choir or offering your gifts as an instrumentalist.

WORSHIP

DOTTIE DAVISON *Ruling Elder*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:5-6

"It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of His new covenant."

Arriving in the month of September, your worship team is keenly aware of possible doubt and reservation. But are our thoughts much different than the 12 being left by Christ when He ascended? Their leader had left and yet those 12 established His church. To some degree, history was repeated in 1737. With just a few settlers of Franklin County, the Greencastle Presbyterian Church came into being. With this history, your Worship Committee asks the question: Who are the ministers of the Greencastle Presbyterian Church?

Clearly the answer is... Everyone in the church!

As we, the church, face new challenges, let 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 be etched on your hearts--- remembering always Who it is that enables us.

"The Church is not a category. It's a people. It's not an institution. It's an identity. If your definition of church doesn't bleed, worship, and rise with Christ, it's not the one He died for."

Your worship committee,
LuAnn, Pam, Linda, Jeff, Fred, and Dottie

September 6 – Communion Servers

Chris Johnston, Chelsea Johnston,
Sue Bell, Dottie Davison

September Liturgists

Sept 6	Chloe Kingsley
Sept 13	Liam Papa
Sept 20	Annual Picnic
Sept 27	David Rutherford

GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM FOOD PANTRY

Providing food for those in the
Greencastle Antrim School District



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

Located in the lower level of Greencastle Presbyterian Church
57 W. Baltimore Street, Greencastle, PA 17225

Thursday, September 3

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 9 & 16

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

MISSION STATEMENT

- Improve the health & well being of the Greencastle-Antrim residents in need by providing access to food, nutrition, education and related resources
- Provide hands on opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors
- Educate the public about the issues of hunger in our area



CURRENT FOOD NEEDS

CEREAL

PASTA SAUCE (in cans or plastic)

RICE MIXES / PASTA MIXES

POTATO MIXES

BAKED BEANS

FRUIT OR APPLESAUCE

VEGETABLES

SOUPS

CANNED PASTA (Chef Boyardee)

Any non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated.

*Please contact us to schedule a time
to drop off the food donations*

SAFETY & SECURITY TEAM

RANDALL ACKERMAN Moderator

After two summer meetings, the team presented a series of protocols and safety related activities to Session at its August 13th meeting.

Youth Group Safety Protocols

Safety protocols were approved by Session that directly support young people and adults participating in the GPC youth program. Colleen Siedel played an active role in creating these protocols and will present them to our youth group and their parents at the start of their fall program.

Sunday Worship Fire Drill

Session has approved the execution of an announced fire drill during worship on Sunday, October 25. On that day, near the end of a slightly shortened worship service, the fire alarm will sound and we will immediately evacuate the entire church. Everyone will immediately gather at the designated rally point near the Train Station (*Worship will officially conclude at the rally point.) Members of

the *Greencastle Rescue Hose Company*, will be on-site to observe the drill and provide feedback to the Safety & Security Team.

****WATCH for additional details** about the fire drill in future bulletin announcements.

Church First Aid Kits

All church first aid kits have been updated with fresh supplies. There is an extensive first aid kit housed at the "sound-table" at the rear of the sanctuary. This kit now includes Nar-Can for both adults and children.

Red Cross CPR/First Aid Training

Your Safety & Security Team is happy to share that the *Greencastle Rescue Hose Company* is now offering quarterly classes that are open to community members and are very affordable. ANYONE who is interested may visit the Fire Company's website for their schedule:

Link to CPR/First Aid Classes:

www.rescuehose.com/CPR

Instructor: J.C. Phillippy

JC.Phillippy@rescuehose.com | 718-552-4846

Should anyone have questions or concerns about the work of the Safety & Security Team, feel free to contact Randall Ackerman at 240-527-5515.



Sunday, August 23, GPC welcomed,
through the waters of Baptism,
Charlotte Ashton Newhouse
daughter of Hannah Myers & Ashton Newhouse.
Grandparents are
Ami Myers & Dave Durff (pictured);
Steve & Chris Myers; and Jami & Jeff Newhouse



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*)

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

Tracy Toston health concerns (*Scott Peterson*)

Sally Snyder health concerns

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

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

David Myers health concerns (*Sue Myers*)

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

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

Leslie Moose (*Patsy Lee*)

Donna Bingaman health concerns (*Margery Benson*)

Emmie White health concerns (*Jan Eppleman*)

Terri Brust health concerns (*Deb Shank*)

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

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

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

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

Cora Crider health concerns

Kim Tartaglia knee replacement

Bill Heacox health concerns (*Brian Rice*)

Amanda Lain

Steve Miller health concerns

Jullie Miller health concerns

Frank Custis health concerns

Tinninis / Seidel family health concerns

Alicia DeAngelis

Evelyn Thompson

Dremah Sue Rockwell Runshaw

R. H. Stamper bypass surgery

Tom Hind health concerns

Pastor Bob Cook *Heavenly Father, we thank You for the faithful service, dedication, and love our shepherd and friend, who has poured Your love into our congregation. We pray Your continued blessing upon him as he moves on to this new chapter. Grant him peace in the transition, courage for the journey, and the joy of knowing his labor in the Lord has made a lasting impact on the GPC community.*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 **Brian & Paulette Keck (43)**

3 Mike Koons

3 Lynn Davis

4 Judy Webber

6 Nate Herrmann

9 Donna Grosh

9 Laiken Smith

10 Craig Welterlen

11 Fred Young

13 Bryan Larew

21 **Curtis & Lu Ann Hager (41)**

22 Linda Thomas

24 Julia Mills

27 Jordan Walck

30 **Greg & Weslie Johnson (22)**

30 Hannah Myers

30 Briggs Walck

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2026

Tue September 1

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00pm
CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30pm

Wed September 2

Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur September 3

Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 6:00pm

Sun September 6

Worship 10:00am with Communion
1st Sunday Food Drive / Coffee Fellowship

Mon September 7

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING 10:00am

Tue September 8

MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING 3:00pm

Wed September 9

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

Thur September 10

Presbyterian Women 1:00pm
SESSION MEETING 5:30pm

Fri September 11

25th Anniversary of the terroristic attacks
on the United States of America

Sun September 13

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

Wed September 16

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

Thur September 17

BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING 6:30pm

Sun September 20

Annual Church Picnic with Worship 10:00am
Antrim Township Community Park

Tue September 22 thru Sat September 26
Repaving church parking lots

Wed September 23

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

Sun September 27

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

Wed September 30

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

25 YEARS LATER

September 11, 2001 remains a defining moment in our nation's 250-year history. For those who witnessed that day and the 100 million Americans too young to remember it, we are the storytellers and stewards of its meaning. In 2026, we honor the enduring legacy of 9/11: the strength, unity, hope, and service that emerged afterward.