

BREADBASKET

February 20223

NEWS



HARRISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
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Groundhog Day

In February, Pennsylvania becomes the fake meteorology capitol of the world. People travel up and down and over and around to arrive at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney. They gather on February 2 to hear the prognostication of Phil, the world's most famous groundhog. He tells us whether we're going to have six more weeks of winter or not.

It's truly amazing that people care so much for this, but they do. In some years the average price for a hotel room in Punxsutawney on Groundhog Day has been higher than the average price for a hotel room for the Super Bowl.

One of the things spinning out of this fascination with alternative meteorology was the 1993 film, *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell. In it, Bill Murray plays Phil Connors, a cynical, self-absorbed weatherman from Pittsburgh, who comes to Punxsutawney to cover the event. He wakes up the next day to find out it's not the next day at all – it's Groundhog Day all over again. And the next day and the next day and the next day... He can't escape to tomorrow. He's stuck in Groundhog Day.

First, realizing that he will suffer no ongoing consequences if he does so, he indulges as many different fantasies as he can in these ultimately erased days. He does this until it dawns on him that what he truly wants and needs to be is a decent, caring human being, regardless of whether he is ever able to leave Groundhog Day. When he has reached a level of consummate goodness, including being able to reach out to the woman he desires with love instead of exploitation, he is enabled to move forward to the future and leave Groundhog Day.

Has this type of thing ever occurred to you – where you felt stuck in a situation and couldn't seem to move forward no matter what you did? Are you in that type of situation now? Well, then, there's a lesson in *Groundhog Day* for you. Sometimes we're stuck in situations because we're being refined; made into better people, as Phil Connors was. The First Letter of Peter says, "... even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor..." (1 Peter 1:6b-7). Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, said, "...we may boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5).

In this cold, dark month of February, ALL of us are at least a little stuck – waiting for more sunshine to come. But no matter what kind of life situation we find ourselves in, the key is not to curse the circumstances; it is to affirm the always positive potential of the Spirit within them. There is always hope. There is always a way forward for those who put their faith in God.

Pastor Ken

Dear Harrisville Church Family,

While you were hopefully enjoying your week after Christmas, despite the blisteringly cold weather, we had a little conflict within our church family. Apparently, a church member, or members, within our family was upset that, in the days leading up to Christmas, the illuminated sign in front of our church read like this:

XMAS EVE AT F-VILLE 7:30

XMAS DAY 11 AM

I received notice of this on December 28. John McKee, the chair of our Pastor-Parrish Relations Committee, told me that some members of our church thought that the “X” in “Xmas” and the “F” in “F-ville” were inappropriate and should be taken down. I told John that, although the abbreviations were completely appropriate, the sign would be changed later that day to make way for a new message.

Then, a few days later, on December 31, I received a text message from a member of our Church Council. The text was a forwarded message, showing a photo of the aforementioned church sign, with this message underneath it: “... I think this needs to be addressed. Please call me when you get home. Thanks” The message was from Evelyn Baum.

I texted John, asking for a PPRC meeting as soon as possible. We had a meeting on Tuesday, January 3. At the meeting, I made the point that the complaints about the sign were baseless and absurd. I included the following reasons in support of that:

1. The abbreviations of “Xmas” and “F-ville” were necessary if we wanted to fit the notice on the sign.
2. “Xmas” has been used for centuries as a legitimate abbreviation for “Christmas”. “X” is the first letter in the original, ancient Greek word for Christ, which was “Χρῖστος”. Therefore, “X” has been used in a number of contexts to respectfully and appropriately symbolize “Christ”, including in its use in “Xmas”. (For further reading on this, please see, for instance, the Wikipedia entry on “Xmas”, the Oxford English Dictionary and O’Conner, Patricia T.; Kellerman, Stewart (2009). *Origins of the Specious: Myths and Misconceptions of the English Language*. New York: Random House. p. 77 – among many other works referring to this matter.)

3. I couldn't even possibly imagine what could be inappropriate about abbreviating "Forestville" as "F-ville".
4. The sign directed people to worship services where they would learn about and worship Jesus Christ, certainly not disregard him.
5. To accuse the maker of the sign of the intention of "taking Christ out of Christmas" was personally offensive and defamatory.
6. If she was personally confused or concerned about the sign maker's intentions, a simple remedy would have been to ask the sign maker of his intentions.

I proposed, and the committee agreed, that I should meet with Evelyn to discuss and resolve this issue about the sign, with John McKee being present as a witness.

I texted Evelyn the following day, inviting her to discuss the issue with me.

She has refused to meet with me.

And, via a phone conversation with John McKee later that week, Evelyn said she and Carl have decided to leave our congregation.

At a further PPRC meeting on January 12, to address Evelyn's refusal to meet, I proposed, and the committee agreed, that we should provide a statement to the Church Council and then, if approved by the Council, to the congregation, to detail the events described herein, especially to curb the dissemination of misinformation. I was tasked with writing the statement, which, I thought, because it was ultimately to be sent to members of our congregation, should be in the form of a letter. This is that letter.

So we thank Evelyn and Carl Baum for their longtime presence in and service with the Church and we ask you to wish them well and to pray for Evelyn and Carl and their family as they seek connection with the Spirit of God elsewhere.

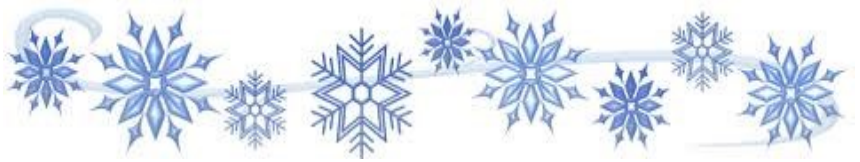
And Harrisville Church Family? God loves you and so do we. Let us continue to pray for each other and for our congregation. May we continue to seek the joy of Christ wherever he may be found.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Ken

**In Sanctuary Worship
Sundays at 11AM**

**Next Council meeting
March 7 @ 7PM**



DECEMBER 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT *

Designated Money

Closing Balance Mercer County Bank Nov 2022	\$1,227.86
Designated Money	
Local Missions	\$807.00
Outreach—Bike Ministry	\$478.00
Care Team	\$481.58
Spirit of Hope	
Youth	\$1,003.88
Property Tax	\$50.72
Shields Foundation	\$1,500.00
Snyder Fund 2021	\$1,000.00
Prayer Blankets	\$142.00
Flowers	\$215.50
Snyder Fund 2022	\$1,000.00
Total Designated Money	\$7,727.96
Working Balance General Fund	\$6,500.10
Total Income to General Fund for Dec 2022	\$7,505.99
Total Expenditure from General Fund in Dec 2022	\$10,568.15

* To be ratified by Church Council*

Finance Summary for 2022

Income	\$104,697.00
Expenses	\$122,629.00
Deficit	\$17,923.00
Debt Outstanding (Building Fund)	\$11,500.00

FINANCE REPORT*	THRU NOV	DEC	YTD
GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$101,600.36	\$7,505.99	\$109,106.35
SPENDING FROM GENERAL FUND	\$115,072.11	\$10,568.15	\$125,640.26
NET SURPLUS / (Deficit)	(\$13,471.75)	\$3,062.16	\$16,533.91

*Ratified by Church Council



The red cardinal symbolizes the phases of restoring. When going through great difficulties with greater hope I God. The red cardinal birds are viewed as the symbols of keeping faith irrespective of the tough times, which comes in our life. They remind us to glue with the Lord even in times of despair.

RichardALois.com (Symbolism & Spirituality)

Also cardinals are a sign that a loved one who's passed is near, letting you know they're with you. This is one of the most well-known interpretations of the cardinal, though their meaning is ultimately up to context and personal interpretation.



JANUARY 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT *

Designated Money

Closing Balance Mercer County Bank	\$520.09
Dec. 2022	
Designated Money	
Local Missions	\$807.00
Outreach—Bike Ministry	\$478.00
Care Team	\$481.58
Spirit of Hope	
Youth	\$1,003.88
Property Tax	\$50.72
Shields Foundation	\$1,500.00
Snyder Fund 2021	\$1,000.00
Prayer Blankets	\$142.00
Snyder Fund 2022	\$1000.00
Property Tax	\$34.47
Total Designated Money	\$7,489.93
Working Balance General Fund for Jan 2023	\$6,969.84
Total Income to General Fund for Jan 2023	\$11,050.95
Total Expenditure from General Fund in Jan 2023	\$10,541.69

* To be ratified by Church Council*

FEED MY SHEEP FOOD BANK STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 2023

Total: Family Members:	154	Slippery Rock Area:	46
Families:	95	Slippery Rock Boro:	29
Seniors	69	Harrisville:	13
Adults:	65	New	3
Children	20		

**For those in need,
contact:
724-421-5274**

Deliveries can be made for those unable or fearful of going out Present hours:
Tues & Thurs 2:00 to 3:00
Sat: by appointment

Feed My Sheep February Request

Chunky Soup
Canned Peaches
Canned pineapple



FINANCE REPORT*

	THRU DEC	JAN	YTD
GENERAL FUND INCOME		\$11,050.95	\$11,050.95
SPENDING FROM GENERAL FUND		\$10,541.69	\$10,541.69
NET SURPLUS / (Deficit)		\$509.69	\$509.69

*Ratified by Church Council

Loan to General Fund

From Building Fund— April	\$3,000.00
From Building Fund— April	\$4,000.00
From Building Fund— July	\$1,000.00
From Building Fund— Nov.	3,500.00
From Building Fund— Jan.	\$1,000.00
Total	\$12,500.00



prayers & petitions

PRAYER LIST: To be added to the prayer requests, email the church at secretary@harrisvilleumc.org. If you have an urgent request, please contact Pastor Ken at 724-986-3486 or kenmiller_20@hotmail.com. You may also contact Mae Lynn Edwards @ Mae Lynn Edwards @ 724-991-8364 or schweety920@gmail.com. An * beside a name indicates that the name will be kept on the list indefinitely. If you want to keep or add a name on the list, please indicate it on the back of your Connect Card, call the church office & leave a message (724-735-4671) or email at secretary@harrisvilleumc.org.

Dee Thompson*	Linda Faller*	James Patton*	Nevada Kelly*
Marcia Carnahan	The Gunniers family*	Marilyn Brinker*	Tony Kearney*
Audrey Clark*	Douglas Gradisar, nephew of John & Jennie McKee who needs a heart transplant	Jenny Gannon Guilliland*	Velma Wissen, Ron Gunniers Sister*
Virginia Hockenberry*	John Stalker*	Bryce Bennett*	Connie Rider*
Matthew Croup*	Shirley Burr*	Zachory Boozel*	Helen Long, SRU Student
Connie Thompson*	Gary Hoffman*	Kathy Barnes*	First Responders
Our Police	HUMC*	Our Military*	Our Country*

CELEBRATE!

February Birthdays

2/5 Kathy Barnes
2/10 Martha Jones
2/15 Norah Hagan
2/28 Declan Hagan

February Anniversaries

2/14 Troy & Amy Van Dyke

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd.
Easter is April 9th.

March Anniversaries

3/8 Jon & Tanya Manz

March Birthdays

3/4 Destiny Kearney
3/7 Earl Webb
3/11 Neva Johnston
3/25 John McKee
3/27 Wayne Zellmann

COMING SOON . . .

Our next bake sale at the fire hall is scheduled for April 15, 2023.
Get out those baking pans!
More info in the weeks to come.



"Love one another as I have loved"

Many of our longtime members are no longer able to attend services or get around like they used to. The Care team helps with visitation, care packages, and small acts of kindness on holidays. This committee is also responsible for sending care packages to our college students and military while they are away.

OUR SHUT-INS

- Kathy Barnes
Quality Life Services
8221 Lamar Road
Mercer, PA 16137
- Betty Donaldson
The Lakes at Jefferson
Rm BE 118
7271 W. Market Street
Mercer, Pa 16137
- Connie Emmett
Shenango On The Green
Room 233
238 S. Market Street
New Wilmington, PA 16142
- Marilyn Brinker
234 Amsterdam Road
Grove City, PA 16127
724-748-6226

*Please
Send
Them
a Card*

Mary Jane Long's home address is:
214 Ten Rod Road
Rochester, NH 03867

OFFERING COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEB 5	Connie Rider	Martha Jones
FEB 12	Lutie Clausen	Bill Hagan
FEB 19	Denise Conrad	Tana Manz
FEB 26	Sondra Buchanan	Martha Jones
MAR 5	Connie Rider	Martha Jones
MAR 12	Lutie Clausen	Bill Hagan
MAR 19	Denise Conrad	Tana Manz
MAR 26	Sondra Buchanan	Martha Jones



Dear Ladies of the Prayer Blanket Ministry

I wanted to express my sincere thanks for the beautiful Prayer Blanket, for your generosity of time and spirit and most of all for your prayers. The blanket is a precious reminder of the love you extended in Christ. And it meant so much at the time when both comfort and prayer was so desperately needed,

Love,
Marsha Johnson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your sweet ministry of the prayer blankets at the time of my brother's passing.

To be confronted body and soul with all the love and prayers that went with them is greatly appreciated.

To know that we are loved and prayed for as we go through these next days is truly a blessing beyond measure.

Thanks so much,
Patty Bailey